

THE TIMES

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Prior hint on assembly powers

The Government was prepared to concede that the proposed Northern Ireland Assembly should be allowed to debate matters of security and law and order, Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State, indicated. As recently as last month he ruled out the possibility of the assembly debating security matters.

Woman and girl stabbed to death

A woman and a girl were found stabbed to death on a wooded track leading to an army firing range near Aldershot. Their dog was guarding the bodies.

Arsenal boycott Argentine tour

Terry Neill, the Arsenal manager, will not release his Irish defenders, John Devine and David O'Leary, for next week's friendly match between the Republic of Ireland and Argentina. Ron Greenwood, the England manager, has announced his initial squad for the World Cup finals.

Britain will not 'buy' sanctions

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, said in Brussels that Britain would not buy EEC sanctions against Argentina by agreeing to an increase in farm prices, nor permit a majority decision to impose the increase.

Trade surplus for UK

The United Kingdom had an overseas trade surplus of £174m in February after a deficit of £132m in January. There was also an estimated surplus of £480m in February for invisible trade.

Fire families' leave to appeal

Families of 13 young black people who died in a fire at Deptford, south-east London, in January last year have been given leave to challenge the open verdicts returned at the inquest.

Alliance gaffe

Mr Paul Taylor, the Liberal-SDP Alliance prospective candidate in the Beaconsfield by-election, embarrassed Social Democratic Party leaders by saying the parties had agreed on an incomes policy.

Stubble drive

The National Farmers' Union has launched a campaign to prevent careless and irresponsible straw and stubble burning. It wants the maximum fine raised from £500 to £1,000.

Nurses clash

Three people were arrested after nurses clashed with pickets at the strike hit district general hospital.

Envoys expelled

Poland is expelling two American diplomats it says were caught receiving information from a Polish scientist previously interned under martial law.

Siege 'imminent'

Iranian troops were poised to besiege the strategic city of Khorramshahr in their latest offensive in the Gulf war, Tehran radio reported.

West warned by Solzhenitsyn

Alexander Solzhenitsyn in an article in *The Times* today deplores Western attitudes in the face of nuclear threat and claims that the TV generation prefers to film the march of totalitarianism rather than stop it.

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Navy again bombard Falklands as negotiations drag on

Royal Navy warships bombarded military targets around Port Stanley in the second successive night while warships armed with anti-aircraft missiles closed on the Argentine garrison.

In Buenos Aires it appeared that the junta, in a slight shift of ground, might accept joint government of the Falklands.

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

FALKLANDS ROUNDUP

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There had been evidence to suggest any breaches.

The latest news of naval activity came shortly after reports that the burnt-out destroyer Sheffield and the Argentine intelligence-gathering trawler Narwhal had both sunk in heavy seas off the Falklands.

There will be sadness over the loss of the Sheffield, struck by an Exocet missile a week ago, and controversy over the unexplained disappearance of the Narwhal.

There was apparently holed by a bomb and by 30mm cannon fire when it was attacked by Sea Harriers at the weekend.

There were 24 casualties among the Argentine crew when the Narwhal, which had been spying on the British task force, was struck, then captured and boarded by British forces. One of those wounded later died.

First reports in London said that there had been casualties and that the Harrier bomb had been dropped nearby as a warning to the crew to surrender.

The Ministry admitted later on Sunday that a number of the crew had been wounded, but it was not until yesterday when a Press Association report recorded the findings of the boarding party.

The trawler, which was used for intelligence gathering, was found to have been hit by a missile.

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The bomb had apparently hit the forecastle but had not detonated and it is not known if it contributed to the eventual demise of the boat.

The 11 crew who had been unhurt in the incident and the British boarding party were apparently evacuated some time after midnight, when the trawler developed a list to starboard. It was south-east of the Falklands at the time it went down.

Mr McDonald protested at his briefing that the Narwhal constituted a threat to the task force despite being unarmed. It could have summoned a submarine to attack British ships, he said, and had been warned several times to withdraw.

Less is so far known about the Sheffield, except that it was under tow when it sank, a charred shell amidstships anyway — as a result of the fire which followed the missile explosion. It was a victim of the bad weather which finally overcame the Narwhal.

Mr McDonald said he was sure that the ship had been examined by a boarding party from the task force before it sank. Twenty sailors lost their lives in the disaster.

The fate of the two vessels, casualties of the Falklands crisis, was disclosed amid continuing expectation of more intensive operations round or even on the islands as the task force entered its sixth week at sea.

One indication of the density of aircraft now using Ascension Island, the force's halfway-base in the Atlantic, is that an air traffic control zone has been declared 100 miles around the runway. All aircraft entering it have to file a flight plan.

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Pope calls cardinals to advise on visit

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Pope has summoned Cardinal Gray of Edinburgh and Cardinal Hume of Westminster to Rome for an urgent meeting on the Falkland Islands crisis.

They left yesterday for a private meeting with the Pope last night, which could be followed by a further meeting today.

The two cardinals had not been told in advance what the Pope wished to discuss.

There was inevitable speculation that he wanted the cardinals' advice on the possibility of cancelling his visit to Britain later this month, but it is also said in official circles that the Pope may be thinking of a more positive intervention in the crisis itself.

The two British cardinals have already discussed their positions on a possible cancellation and agreed that their advice to the Pope at the moment is to go ahead.

It is feared that cancellation would be interpreted by public opinion as a pro-Argentine move. But they admit, apparently, that at a certain level of conflict in the South Atlantic it would not be prudent to proceed.

Until the papal summons to the two cardinals were known, however, he implied that the visit was secure.

At a press conference in Manchester yesterday Mr John Allen, in charge of the visit to the city, repeated the assurance given last week by Mr Derek Worlock, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It is understood that Cardinal Hume knows that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, about cancelling the visit, and that there is no great difference between the two.

It was emphasised in Roman Catholic circles yesterday that the two cardinals, and undoubtedly the Pope, are far more concerned about the Falkland Islands crisis itself than about the papal visit.

So far the Pope has spoken of the crisis only in general terms, though he has more than once called this context for the upholding of the principle of territorial integrity and self-determination.

One speculation, whose basis is uncertain, is that the Pope might decide to make an urgent visit to Argentina after his visit to Britain, taking a message of peace to both countries. Some observers consider this the kind of move that could appeal to him.

Rome: The two British cardinals were at the Vatican last night and Cardinal Hume is known to have gone to the meeting with very strong intentions of advising the Pope to go ahead with the visit (Peter Nicholas writes).

Emergency Cabinet meeting after PLO shells Galilee

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, May 10

Mr Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Defence Minister, received conflicting advice today from mayors and local council chairmen in Galilee about how to prevent last night's guerrilla bombardments from southern Lebanon escalating into a full-scale war of attrition.

The four-hour intermittent bombardment — the first guerrilla shelling of Israeli territory from Lebanon since the ceasefire agreement last July — caused no damage or casualties, according to the Army.

Military sources here dismissed speculation that the Palestinians deliberately limited their response to the Israeli air raids on Palestinian bases last night.

They said more than 100 Katyusha rockets and artillery shells had hit Israeli territory. Residents had spent the night in bomb shelters.

Mr Sharon visited Galilee early today, to solicit the views of the mayors before reporting to the Cabinet at an extraordinary meeting in Jerusalem to discuss the bombardments. Decisions, if any, were not made public.

To ensure secrecy, the Cabinet meeting was proclaimed a session of the parliamentary foreign affairs and security committee.

Military commanders advised Galileans today to go about their normal business — which they did. Schools, factories and shops were open as usual, but the atmosphere was tense.

The military command said yesterday's air raids were in response to 130 breaches of the ceasefire.

Beirut: The Palestine Liberation Organization claimed tonight that its bombardment of Israeli border settlements was merely "a tactical response" to the Israeli air raids, rather than the end of the ceasefire in southern Lebanon (Robert Fisk writes).

At least 12 Palestinians were killed and more than 30 wounded yesterday when the Israelis unexpectedly launched their second air assault on Palestinian positions in Lebanon in three weeks.

Palestinian anti-aircraft guns fired at Israeli jets overflying Beirut today, but there was no further Israeli attempt to bomb PLO bases — and the PLO fired no more missiles into northern Israel.

If nothing else, Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, has learnt the principles of the measured response.

Britain severely criticized Israel for the raids. The Foreign Office said renewed conflict in Lebanon was in no one's interest and Israeli attacks were a further breach of the ceasefire.

Leadership contest in SDP

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Roy Jenkins is to be challenged by Mrs Shirley Williams or Dr David Owen for the leadership of the Social Democratic Party in a contest next month.

It is not the highest number ever suspended but is part of a recent decline from totals running at times to 80 suspensions.

Officers are suspended on full pay while allegations are investigated and in some cases suspensions have lasted several years until the officers are cleared or court or disciplinary hearings end.

However, Mrs Williams said last night from Madrid, where she is attending a conference, that there would certainly be a contest.

She said that she had not yet decided whether to stand herself but would decide on her return to London after consultations with her colleagues. She would discuss with Dr Owen whether she or he should stand against Mr Jenkins.

There will be a contest, whether it is between Roy and me or Roy and David is not yet certain. Having agreed on the one member, one vote principle, it would be nonsense if we did not have a contest," Mrs Williams said she was pleased with the result of the ballot because she had always favoured one member one vote.

The proposal devised by Mr Mike Thomas, MP for Newcastle upon Tyne, East, a supporter of Dr Owen, that all members should have the right to vote for the leader, with the system being subject to a review in three years, had only a narrow majority over a compromise proposal.

That suggested that the first election should be by the members, with the MPs taking over after the next general election. However, the steering committee's favoured option, of election by MPs only from the start, was heavily defeated.

In the ballot, 16,196 voted for the Thomas formula, 12,560 for the compromise proposal and 8,500 for election by MPs. But after the allocation of the second preference votes of those who had voted for the MPs-only option, their figure for the compromise proposal went up sharply to 15,670 and that for the Thomas formula up far more modestly to 16,618. It was, nevertheless, enough to win the day.

The result left some MPs who had favoured the MPs-only option, ruling the fact yesterday that more than half those members who voted for

Yard investigating 51 policemen

By Stewart Tendler

A total of 51 London police officers are at present suspended from duty during inquiries by the Complaints Investigations Branch into allegations including perjury, serious assault, other crimes and corruption, according to figures released to *The Times* yesterday by Scotland Yard.

One officer may face a variety of accusations while others may face a single allegation. At present the workload is being handled by just over a hundred officers. They include a special squad formed to follow up cases pushed on last year by Operation Countryman, the provincial inquiry into London police corruption.

The suspensions can be seen against a Metropolitan Police strength of 25,618 officers.

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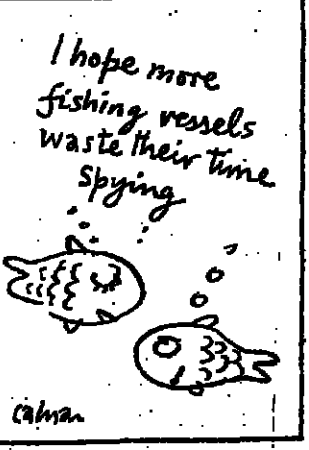
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for no other reasons than that they are still continuing and that the parties have been contributing with their own very substantial ideas and suggestions to this process of filling in the framework for peace in the Secretary General's report presented. The talk will reach a crucial stage when the Secretary General presents the two sides to a peace package based on the ideas he has been skimming from them. It will be apparent whether a breakthrough or breakdown is imminent.

According to diplomatic sources, the thorny issues that have bedevilled a successful solution to the crisis for more than a month, is not been removed. Britain still worried about the mania of a ceasefire, the withdrawal of Argentine forces and their own. The nature of the arrangements for an interim administration are still a sticking point.

Both sides appear to have indicated a willingness for flexibility.

UN peacemaking will take several days

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York, May 10

Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary General, today pressed ahead with his role as peacemaker in the Falklands conflict amid a low-keyed atmosphere that was neither despondent nor buoyant with expectation.

He was expected to continue holding separate meetings with British and Argentine representatives, building ideas into peace proposals, in an exercise likely to last several more days.

British sources said the Secretary General was today awaiting clarification from the Argentine Government on the issue of sovereignty before calling in the British delegate.

Sir Anthony Parsons, for more talks, Senior Perez de Cuellar made it clear that the issue should

not be dealt with at this stage.

The talks, now into their fourth day, took on a new sense of urgency yesterday when British naval forces broke the de facto ceasefire in the South Atlantic. United Nations officials expressed hopes that calm would prevail as negotiations moved forward.

But yesterday's military action did not appear to have dampened the willingness of both sides to seek the diplomatic efforts continue.

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Taxi fares go up by 10%

London taxi fares are to rise by an average of 10 per cent from May 30, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

The new tariff will operate by shortening time and distance purchased by the initial hiring fee and increments, and by increasing the surcharges for unsocial hours. The minimum fare of 50p will cover the first 630 yards or two minutes, 24 seconds; the rate will then be 10p for each 315 yards, (compared to the present 354 yards) or one minute, 12 seconds, (one minute, 48 seconds) up to six miles, and 10p for each 210 yards (236 yards) or 48 seconds, (1 minute, 12 seconds) thereafter.

The weekday nights and Saturdays surcharge will rise from 30p to 40p, and Saturday nights, Sundays and public holiday from 50p to 60p. The Christmas Day surcharge will be doubled to £2.

Police officer defrauded board

Richard John Savage, aged 34, a police inspector at Swansea docks, was given a nine months' prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court yesterday after being found guilty of conspiring to defraud the docks board. He built an extension to his home using docks board workers, material and transport, the jury was told.

Walford Phillips, aged 51, the docks works supervisor, of Llansamlet, Swansea, was also found guilty of conspiracy. Sentencing was deferred.

GLC Tory leader

Mr Richard Brew, aged 52, a barrister, farmer and racehorse owner, was elected leader of the Conservative group on the Greater London Council yesterday. Mr Brew, who was deputy leader takes over from Sir Horace Cutler, who is stepping down.

Jenner donation

Mr Ryoichi Sasaki, aged 81, a Japanese philanthropist and businessman, yesterday presented the Jenner Trust with £500,000 to enable it to buy the house in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, where in 1796 Dr Edward Jenner demonstrated the success of vaccination against smallpox.

Rate error

An accounting mistake may cost about 900 house-holders around Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, an extra £100 on their water rates. The Anglian Water Authority has discovered that the district council omitted some charges from accounts in 1979.

Tory choice

Mr Robert Key, aged 36, a master at Harrow School, has been adopted as prospective parliamentary Conservative candidate for Salisbury. Mr Michael Hamilton, the present Conservative MP, said in November that he would retire at the next election.

Potholer killed

Mr Edward Holstead, aged 29, of Darley Dale, near Matlock, Derbyshire, fell to his death yesterday down a 360 ft shaft while potholing in the Gaping Ghyll cave, near Settle, North Yorkshire. A colleague, Mr Peter Byard, was slightly injured.

£100 for bravery

Police Constables, David Olds and Russell Cherry, who were severely wounded when a car driver they were questioning last year attacked them with a knife in North London, received £100 bravery awards at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday. The man has not been caught.

Cruise pair die

Two teenagers who were found dead on Sunday while on a cruising holiday on the Norfolk Broads were named yesterday as Lorraine Winters and John Murphy, both aged 17, from New Addington, near Croydon, South London.

Cell death ruling

A Bristol inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death yesterday on Mr David Cunningham, aged 58, who died in a police cell from a fractured skull. They said in a rider that the injury was received in a series of falls before his arrest.

Aslef men under more pressure over new rosters

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Public pressure increased last night on train drivers' leaders to accept Lord McCarthy's report on the dispute when Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) said its findings were a vindication of its members' acceptance of flexible rostering.

In his first public comment on the report of the Railway Staff National Tribunal Mr Weighell said: "We have studied the report carefully and it is in line with NUR policy. It fully vindicates the stand that we took."

Mr Weighell was speaking during a break in a meeting of his executive called to discuss the report, which supports British Rail on the principle of ending the train drivers' eight-hour day.

The key union involved, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef), which held 17 one-day strikes over the issue at the beginning of the year, is to discuss the report at a meeting of its executive tomorrow.

Mr Weighell, after more than two hours of sometimes heated discussion last night, failed to secure a simple statement of assent to the report from his executive, largely because the discussion broadened into complaints about British Rail's conduct on a wide range of issues, including pay, productivity, and investment.

Some members of the executive expressed particular anger about indications from British Rail at the weekend that fruitful annual wage negotiations would not take place until the management had secured Aslef's agreement to flexible rostering.

The NUR, which represents about 1,500 of British Rail's 24,000 drivers and assistants, has accepted flexible rostering on behalf of its 12,000 guards, and local discussions to continue quickly.

Of the 300 depots where guards are based, agreements have been reached in 237 and British Rail says the new rosters are operating in about 200.

The management, however, is facing the threat of industrial action from the NUR over its decision to cut 5,000 jobs in railway workshops with the probable shutdown of the works at Horwich, Greater Manchester, and Shildon, Co Durham. NUR and engineering union officials are to meet the management for further talks on the cutbacks.

The Aslef executive may avoid deciding on the McCarthy report tomorrow and instead leave the issue to the union's annual policy conference, which begins in London next week.

The NUR's footplate members are spread through various of the 300 depots. Pockets of NUR members tend to be concentrated in the Midlands.

Left-wing victories in Civil Service union

From David Felton, Labour Reporter, Brighton

Left-wingers gained substantial victories yesterday in the country's biggest Civil Service union. The decisions are likely to lead the union into regular confrontations with the Government.

Delegates at the annual conference of the Civil and Public Services Association in Brighton voted overwhelmingly for a resolution stating that next year's pay claim should be drawn up by a special conference, which would also plan a campaign strategy.

The special conference, which was agreed on against the advice of the union leadership, will be held at the end of the year and is certain to be dominated by the union's broad left organization, a coalition of communists, Militant Tendency supporters, and far left groups.

Delegates yesterday criticized the union executive for not being prepared to throw its full weight behind calls for a full strike during last year's five months of selective strikes by civil servants.

The executive was censured in one motion, agreed

Two are stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent Guildford

A woman and a girl were found stabbed to death on a track leading to an Army firing range yesterday. It is believed they were walking their dog when they were attacked just off the A325 at Heath End, near Aldershot.

A passer-by discovered the bodies, which were being guarded by the dog.

Police sealed off the area and a Home Office pathologist carried out a preliminary post mortem examination on the spot. Police with dogs started a search and a house-to-house inquiries were made of an estate near by.

Army officers also joined detectives. The wooded track where the bodies were found is on land behind the Army's court martial centre and only a short distance from the depot of Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps.

Postman jailed

A postman who got into debt and stole nearly £15,000 from registered letters, was jailed for three years yesterday, Michael Davies, aged 31, of Frankley, Birmingham, slit open more than a hundred mailbags while working at Birmingham's New Street station, a jury at Birmingham Crown Court was told.



Flying high: A group of unemployed teenagers who yesterday started a year-long project to build a light aircraft as part of the Government Youth Opportunities Programme. The plane, similar to the one above at Sunderland, will become a flying example of what YOP trainees can do, given an interesting scheme and encouragement. The Manpower Services Commission has allocated £54,226 for the project.

EEC coal cuts plan attacked

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

South Wales miners, who fear a new round of "uneconomic" coal production dictated by the European Economic Community, said yesterday that they would fight the Brussels policy makers as they fought the British Government last year.

Mr Emyln Williams, area president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), disclosed to a coal-field delegate conference the contents of an EEC policy paper that suggests phasing out 40 million tonnes of "unprofitable" output.

The commission's advice to the European Energy Council of Ministers says that 15 per cent of EEC coal production costs more than 100 per cent of the cost of oil, and the future of those pits ought to be reviewed. The National Coal Board is opposing the strategy.

Welsh miners believe that the intention of the EEC initiative is to rely to a greater extent on cheaper coal from Australia and Third World countries in South America and Asia.

"We must show the EEC that we have learnt our lesson," Mr Williams said. "Our reserves of precious coal, our mines and our labour force must not be wasted in order that British Steel and the CEBG and private industry be allowed to make a far buck."

"Those reserves and assets must be defended, not just for this generation but for generations to come," he warned. "As we warned the Thatcher Administration last year, that we have had enough double-talk, false promises and lies."

Miners wanted a planned energy policy that would use Welsh coal and manpower in the best possible way. "That means investment in new developments, new mines and new recruits, not investment in worn-out, free-market ideologies. They failed once and they will fail again," Mr Williams insisted.

The EEC proposal, which is still only advice to member governments, argues that the slowing down of economic growth in Europe has forced Brussels energy experts to revise downwards their estimates for coal consumption up to the year 2000.

However, the document favours more intensive use of coal in industrial boilers and says that could be achieved without causing significant environmental difficulties.

● Calls for industrial action by Yorkshire miners against the Government's trade union reform Bill were set aside by delegates at a Yorkshire area council meeting of the NUM at Barnsley yesterday in favour of contributing to concerted action by all trade unions (Donald Kershaw writes).

Mr Jack Taylor, area president, said the union had given a commitment to the TUC and the battle against the Bill was one for the wider movement.

Branch officials and committee members are to be urged to attend a rally against the Bill at Sheffield on Sunday.

Prior backs down on security talks

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, gave a clear signal in the Commons yesterday that the Government is prepared to concede that the province's proposed assembly should be allowed to debate matters of security and law and order.

As the second reading debate on the Northern Ireland Bill opened, it was soon evident that the forces on both sides of the House lining up against the measure have the oratorical, if not the numerical, power to endanger its passage unless there are concessions.

Mr Prior was firmly ruling out the possibility of debates by the assembly on security. Clause three of the Bill makes clear that the assembly does not have the power to consider "Excepted" or "reserved" matters such as security, unless the issue is specifically referred to it by the Secretary of State.

But with the Rev. Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist MP for Antrim, North, leading the call for Mr Prior to think again on this matter, the Secretary of State was in a conciliatory mood yesterday as he opened the debate on the legislation which could restore devolved government in Ulster.

He said the Government had always recognized that the question of law and order was a matter of great concern to the people of Northern Ireland and to their elected representatives. The arguments put forward had highlighted the concern over law and order issues.

He went on to suggest that the House should look at the provisions in Clause three of the Bill's committee stage. That is as clear an indication as a minister will give at this stage of a Bill that he is prepared to make concessions.

Mr Prior, however, is not expected to move far enough to allow security to be one of

Move to scrap Ulster's ailing Labour Party

From Tim Jones, Belfast

A secret conference later this month will be asked to disband the Northern Ireland Labour Party, which has failed to break down the sectarian barriers still dominant in the way people vote in the province.

A working party report to be delivered at the conference, organized by party members and trade unionists, refers to deepening sectarian divisions and says the party appears irrelevant to the public "so long as the constitutional crisis remains unsolved".

It blames the "serious effect" of the British Labour Party's new policy on Ireland for the decline. Although there are close links between the two parties, they are not affiliated and the Labour Party's stand on united Ireland is seen as a serious barrier towards a popular acceptance of socialist policies.

The report says there has been sustained and continuing decline of the party during the last decade to nominal levels.

It outlines the "self-evident" use of the party at every level and condemns the absence of any recognizable, active interest by trade unionists in the party's affairs.

Another section of the confidential report mentions the "decline in morale of many members, some of whom whilst maintaining socialist principles, will wish to play a more effective role in political affairs in Northern Ireland, which is denied to them whilst remaining within the party".

A party member said yesterday: "In spite of 70 years, the party's effort for 70 years,

the matters capable of being devolved to the assembly. What he appeared to be saying was that the assembly must be given the powers to debate these issues.

He was not far into his speech, before it must have been evident to him that he has some formidable opponents not only facing him but also behind him.

Those two alone could well form an alliance capable of killing almost any legislation. But they were not alone. Within minutes Mr Prior was under attack also by Sir John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, and Mr Julian Amery, Conservative MP for Brighton, Pavilion.

Sir John, moving an amendment declining to give the Bill a second reading, said the legislation lacked broad support in Northern Ireland, did nothing to defeat terrorism or revive the economy of the province and contained provisions that would undermine the unity of the United Kingdom.

But Mr Prior said the policy of continuing with direct rule did not offer a long-term answer. To postpone this legislation now would be, for all practical purposes, to kill off these proposals. The assembly, he said, was necessary preliminary to political stability.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian, was soon in full cry after Mr Prior. Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down, South, also gave early warning of trouble ahead.

Mr Peter Lloyd, Tory MP for Farnham, has left his post as private secretary to Mr Adam Butler, Minister of Office, because of his opposition to the Northern Ireland Bill (the Press Association reports).

Mr Lloyd said yesterday: I fear that an assembly set up on the lines proposed would lead to further uncertainty and instability."

Councillor campaigns on poll law

By Richard Evans

The Greater London councillor, faced with legal costs estimated at £50,000 after a recent court case involving his election, launched a campaign yesterday to change the law governing petitions against local government candidates and their agents.

In March Mr Adrian Slade, Liberal councillor for Richmond upon Thames, and his agent were found to have inadvertently filed in his election returns form in a technically incorrect way.

At the end of a case lasting three weeks he was ordered to pay his own legal costs and three quarters of those incurred by four Conservatives, who questioned the validity of his election to the GLC.

The court commissioner dismissed all allegations of corrupt practice and 13 of 15 allegations of illegal practice, contained in the election petition, and accepted the "integrity and honesty" of Mr Slade.

Mr Slade wants the Government to change part of the electoral law which allows quasi-criminal allegations of corruption to be brought against elected candidates under civil law without any prior police investigations.

Responsibility for investigating all matters of fact involving election expenses and behaviour should be confined to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the police, "who, alone, will decide whether charges of corruption or illegality should be brought", he says.

"It is apparently possible for any group of constituency electors to make in writing, in the guise of a civil action, quasi-criminal accusations against a successful candidate that have no prior investigative evidence in their support other than guesswork, hearsay and hope-so."

Skinhead jailed for killing Indian student

From Our Correspondent, Birmingham

A skinhead who stabbed an Indian student to death in a racial attack in Coventry was ordered yesterday to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.

Steven Storey, of no fixed address, was convicted of the murder of Satnam Singh Gill, aged 20, who was stabbed to death in the doorway of a licensed house after being chased by a gang through Coventry's shopping centre. Storey pleaded not guilty.

Six other members of the gang received sentences ranging from two and a half to four years for affray. Mr Douglas Draycott, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that the gang had waited "like vultures" for Asian victims.

Another member of the gang, Michael McElhinney, aged 17, of William McKee Close, Binley, Coventry, was cleared of the murder of Mr Gill but was found guilty of affray and also a charge of assisting an offender. Storey, McElhinney had bought the knife.

Three juveniles were all sentenced to two and a half years' detention. McElhinney and Paul Washington, aged 17, of George Robertson Close, Binley, each received three years. David Paul Taylor, aged 19, of St James's Lane, Binley, who pleaded guilty to being involved in an earlier affray, was sentenced to four years.

Mr Justice Rush said: "I must make quite clear to those who are similarly minded to indulge in meaningless, mindless, cowardly violence, particularly violence of a racial kind, that the courts will not tolerate it."

Science report

DDT has no sting for Brazilian bees

By the Staff of "Nature"

A species of bee has not only learnt to live with the DDT that is used to control malaria in a remote part of Brazil but is attracted to and collects the insecticide. The bees come to no harm but probably gain no benefit from their bizarre behaviour.

The partiality of males of *Eufriesea purpurata* to DDT came to the attention of Dr Donald Roberts, then of the University of Brazil in Brasilia, and his colleagues there and at the United States Army Environmental Hygiene Agency in 1978 while they were studying the ecology of the mosquito that carries the malarial micro-organism to humans.

Five bees collected along the Ituxi river, which starts near the border with Bolivia in north-west Brazil, contained very high concentrations of DDT, particularly in the region of the pouches on the hind legs in which pollen is collected.

A year later the scientists demonstrated that wooden boards sprayed with DDT attracted male bees and that large numbers of the bees visited the interior walls of the local residents' houses to collect the DDT that accumulated there from anti-malaria spraying operations.

More recently Dr Roberts and his colleagues have captured, marked and recaptured bees collecting DDT to show that they survived the insecticide to return to their collecting grounds. Furthermore, if held in captivity, they lived as long as bees that had not been exposed to DDT.

Local residents confirmed that they were constantly troubled by bees from July to September but had not been bothered before the start of the malaria controlled programme. The problem was one of nuisance, of which three-quarters of the families complained — and not of pain, since the male bees are stingless.

It is most likely, Dr Roberts and his colleagues say, that the bees mistake the smell of DDT for one of their natural attractants of their natural attractants and proceed to go through the futile actions of collecting it. Since the bees come to no harm, the only possible cause for concern is that they may remove sufficient DDT from the houses to prevent the efficient control of the malarial mosquitoes.

Source: *Nature* May 6 1982 vol. 297, p. 62.
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Fishermen call for £25m aid

By John Young

Without further government aid equivalent at least to £25m, Britain's fishermen faced financial disaster, Mr James Leadley, chairman of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said yesterday.

Although payments last year were delayed by civil servants' industrial action, agreement on aid was reached in principle in April, he said. This year there had been only a deafening silence from the Government.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has claimed several times that both landings and earnings are up this year. He is also thought to be pinning some hopes on the possibility of agreement being reached on a common fisheries policy at talks which begin in Brussels next week.

The fishermen strongly support the idea of an agreement that would give them what they see as the rightful share of fish caught in British waters. But they do not see it as relevant to their immediate crisis.

Mr Leadley said that owners of fishing boats were being "clobbered" by inflation and by fuel prices in particular. Four fifths of them were in debt to banks or other institutions, and if one of those decided to foreclose there would be a domino effect.

A typical 55ft boat cost £300,000, and its owner had no chance at present of seeing any return on his capital. Before setting out for a week's fishing he would have to find about £1,000 to pay for fuel, ice, stores, insurance and maintenance contracts for electronic equipment.

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France	100c	100c	100c
Germany	100c	100c	100c
Greece	100c	100c	100c
Ireland	100c	100c	100c
Italy	100c	100c	100c
Japan	100c	100c	100c
Spain	100c	100c	100c
Sweden	100c	100c	100c
Switzerland	100c	100c	100c
U.K.	100c	100c	100c
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Science report

DDT has no sting for Brazilian bees

Deptford fire families given leave to appeal

The parents of 13 black young people who died in a fire at Deptford, South-east London, in January last year were yesterday given leave by the High Court to apply for court orders quashing the "open" inquest verdict on the deaths and requiring a new inquest to be held.

Mr Justice Comyn said: "I regard this matter as being so important and serious as to warrant a hearing by three Divisional Court judges".

Generally cases in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court are dealt with by one or two judges, but important legal issues can be referred to a bench of three.

Mr Justice Comyn added: "At an earlier stage today I thought it right to ask Mr Ian Macdonald (counsel for the parents and the widow of a fire victim) whether in all the circumstances of this very tragic matter his clients would wish to pursue their application, re-opening old wounds."

Mr Macdonald replied without hesitation that the 12 parents and one widow felt so deeply that they wanted to go on. That answer, so far as I am concerned, is conclusive and is in no way to be held against them."

Dr Arthur Davies, the Inner South London Coroner who presided over the inquest in May last year, was in court yesterday but did not oppose the application for leave to challenge the verdict.

The application was based on the argument that Dr Davies took no notes during the hearing and was therefore unable to give a proper summing-up to the jury.

During yesterday's hearing protesters demonstrated outside the Law Courts chanting "Police cover-up" and "We know it's a bomb" — referring to what they believe caused the fire at a house in New Cross Road, Deptford, while a birthday party was in progress.

Almost a year ago to the day Mr Justice Comyn heard an application by the parents to quash the inquest while it was being held. Then he refused, saying the move had been made too late and it would not be right to prevent the jury from giving a verdict.

Yesterday he directed that he should be excluded from the bench at the full court hearing, which he indicated would take place in about a month's time.

He said it was an unusual order to make, but he thought it would be "generally embarrassing" if he were to adjudicate, because he had become so involved in the preliminary hearings.

The judge also ordered all tape recordings, transcripts and "any or all" handwritten notes made by the coroner to be made available for the pending court hearing.

Alliance split on incomes policy

By Anthony Revins Political Correspondent

The Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance campaign for the Beconsfield by-election was launched yesterday with an immediate and highly embarrassing conflict between Alliance partners over the form of a future incomes policy.

Mr Paul Tyler, the Alliance prospective candidate and former Liberal MP for Bodmin, announced at his first press conference that the joint policy commission on employment and industrial recovery, of which he is a member, had agreed on an incomes policy which was bound to be statutory and based on an inflation tax.

Such a tax would be used as a penalty, levelled against employers and possibly employees as a deterrent against excessive pay in excess.

But that announcement brought an immediate objection from senior Social Democratic Party sources at Westminster. An SDP member commented: "We have not agreed any form of incomes policy". Another SDP source said that Mr Tyler had been most foolish to make such a gaffe so early in his campaign.

The Social Democrats appear determined to keep their incomes policy option open as long as it is possible, for as long as possible.

An SDP policy document on the economy, which has yet to be finalized by the party's policy committee, chaired by Mr Roy Jenkins, puts forward three options for an incomes policy: the inflation tax; a reversion to a form of prices and incomes board with a national pay norm; and a public sector pay policy, which would imply voluntary restraint for the private sector, working on a comparability basis.

Mr Tyler said yesterday that the joint commission report would be a formidable document, which would closely define the application of an inflation tax.

He also said that the statutory policy might well include "gateway" through genuine productivity deals would be allowed to pass.

The importance of a joint policy, one of a number to be agreed by the two parties before the next general election, was emphasized by Mr Tyler's view of the by-election campaign. "It is bound to be overshadowed by whatever is happening in the South-east Atlantic," he said. "But we feel very strongly involved in it, and I will be campaigning to make sure that this is not just simply a ghastly election, because long after the Falklands has been solved, and let us hope that it is solved quite soon, there are going to be other long-term problems that this country is going to be facing."

Unemployment, he said, had more than trebled since the last election.

The by-election was caused by the death of Sir Ronald Bell, who held the seat for 32 years.

At the 1979 general election the result was: R. Bell (Lib) 57,238; E. L. Gibson (Lab) 10,445; P. Mow (Con) 5,825; J. Hayes (Ind) 244. Con majority, 21,413.



Nerves of Steel

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, safely back on the ground at Knebworth House, near Stevenage, Hertfordshire, yesterday after parachuting at 500ft.

"String along with the Liberals and go up in the world", he called down to photographers during his two-minute flight to publicize a Liberal-SDP "Fun Day", which will be held at Knebworth House next month to raise cash for the Hospital for Sick Children, in Great Ormond Street, London.

Knebworth is the base for a parachuting club, the Paramaniacs, and their leading woman member, Joanne Green, aged 30 gave Mr Steel 15 minutes' ground training.

He was then towed aloft by Land-Rover, and after making a perfect landing said: "It was exhilarating but I was terrified". A club member added: "He is very fit and was in total control".

NFU attack on stubble burning

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The National Farmers' Union launched a campaign yesterday to prevent careless and irresponsible straw burning, which it described as one of the most contentious issues in agriculture.

"I make no secret of our concern about the bad public reaction to straw burning," Sir Richard Butler, the union's president, said. "It is understandable, particularly in the wake of the accidents of various kinds which happened last year."

It was clear that too many farmers had failed to follow the union's code, he added. With the advice of organizations including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council, the union had put the maximum effort into ensuring that all farmers got sound, practical advice to help them to burn straw safely.

A film produced as part of the campaign makes the point that about five million tonnes more straw than needed is produced each year and that the burning of it has become an essential practice on most cereal — growing farms.

Although sometimes flippanantly referred to as "using the matchbox bailer", burning demands detailed planning and expert control.

Union officials made clear their concern yesterday that unless farmers put their house in order, someone would do it for them. Two resolutions to be submitted to the national conference in Skegness today of the agricultural and skilled workers' trade group of the Transport and General Workers' Union call for straw burning to be made illegal.

One of the resolutions, moved by the group's Louth district committee, says that farmers will not follow the code.

Answering criticisms from conservationists yesterday that the code was not strong enough, NFU officials replied that they had asked for the maximum fine to be increased from £500 to £1,000.

Last week Lord Elton, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, told the Lords that the maximum of £500 should be seen in the context of the fact that £1,000 was, generally speaking, the most that magistrates' courts could exact for any offence.

Full use of Kielder water 'not till 2000'

From Our Correspondent Newcastle upon Tyne

Water from a £167m reservoir scheme to be opened this month by the Queen is unlikely to be fully used until after the year 2000.

Since Kielder Water, in Northumberland, was planned to increase supplies available for industry, demand in the Northumbrian Water Authority area has declined by 5 per cent.

Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, chairman of the authority, said yesterday that he and his colleagues did not find it embarrassing that the critics who had argued that the scheme was unnecessary had apparently been proved right.

The creation of one of the largest manmade lakes in western Europe by flooding seven miles of the Upper North Tyne Valley, Sir Ralph said, had "assured water supplies for the North-east well into the next century."

He said: "We can confidently say to industrialists that we can meet their water requirements however great they may be."

He agreed, however, that "with the current poor economic forecast for industry, we are not expecting the water from Kielder to be fully utilized probably until the first two decades of the next century."

He described the big reduction in water demands by British steel and ICI, the authority's two largest customers, as "a hiccup".

Mr David Cranston, the authority's finance director, disclosed that a million domestic water users in the North-east would pay £5 a household annually towards the cost of Kielder and would continue to do so "more or less permanently."

Through a complex of pumping stations and tunnels water from the reservoir, which lies close to the Scottish border, can easily be channelled to the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees.

Animal exporter cleared

From Our Correspondent, Northampton

One of Britain's biggest animal exporters was cleared of a conspiracy charge yesterday and a judge ordered that his costs, estimated at £200,000 should be paid out of public funds.

Mr Douglas Clay, aged 57, denied conspiring to defraud veterinary inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Lord Hooson, QC, his counsel, asked for him to be cleared at the end of the prosecution case.

Judge Francis Allen directed the jury at Northampton Crown Court to return a formal verdict of not guilty against Mr Clay, of Eylehurst Farm, Eylehurst, Surrey, and also agreed that his costs should be paid.

Mr Clay would not comment, but Lord Hooson said later that he estimated the costs would be about £100,000. The application had been opposed by Mr Philip Cox, QC, for the prosecution.

Mr Cox had alleged that thousands of sheep and cattle were unlawfully shipped to Europe because health certificates had been altered and forged.

The trial of Mr Richard Orlebar, aged 42, a former restaurant owner, of Hinwick House, Hinwick, Bedfordshire, who also denies conspiracy, is continuing.

TV hypnotist stole from dying mother, QC says

From Our Correspondent, York

Ronald Markham, a stage and television hypnotist under the name Remark, tricked his elderly mother out of her fortune as she lay dying in hospital, Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, for the prosecution, said yesterday at York Crown Court.

Mr Markham, he said, had regularly visited his widowed mother's home in Newcastle upon Tyne to carry off antiques, silver and jewelry. He had planned to emigrate with his wife after their raids on the £250,000 collection of valuables belonging to Mrs Emma Goldman, aged 79.

Mr Rivlin said that Mr Markham, aged 55, thought his mother was too ill to leave hospital. She was taken to hospital in November, 1980, after a stroke and was often vague and confused. She died this year.

Mr Markham set about plundering her fortune, Mr Rivlin said, adding that he also forged documents to obtain money from her many bank and building society accounts.

Counsel said that it was regrettable that Mr Markham's sons would be giving evidence against him. "But this consideration pales into insignificance if you balance it against the pain and distress inflicted on Mrs Goldman by the theft and trickery of the defendant while this helpless old lady was in hospital. This is the essential callousness of these offences."

The police had discovered thousands of pounds of Mr Markham's mother's antiques hidden in the garage of his home.

Mr Rivlin added that Mr Markham had stolen his mother's will, which had never been found.

Mr Markham denies 14 charges of theft and fraud involving more than £50,000 and his wife denies theft and demanding money on a forged instrument.

The hearing continues.

Newspaper is fined for Swale case contempt

News Group Newspapers, publishers of the *News of the World*, were fined £500 in the High Court yesterday for contempt of court in publishing an article about Miss Rosie Swale, the yachtswoman, and Miss Tracey Stamp, her friend.

The newspaper had ignored a judge's warning about what could be published at the end of a Crown Court trial involving the two women, Lord Justice Donaldson, presiding in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said.

The press had been told to be very careful because of the possibility of a retrial after the jury had failed to agree on a verdict on a charge against Miss Stamp of unlawfully administering poison. Miss Swale had been convicted of a similar offence.

Lord Donaldson described the contempt, which News Group admitted, as "at the lower end of the scale, a comparatively minor error of judgment."

He added: "The most outstanding feature of this case is the fact that the *News of the World* has been published for many years and for the past 40 years there has been no such offence."

"It is fair to point out that the paper operates in a field which concentrates on crime and similar stories, where they are more at risk of making an inadvertent error than other types of newspapers."

Mr Simon Brown, for the Attorney General, who brought the contempt proceedings, said the article, published on March 1 last year, had accused the women of waging a "vicious vendetta" against a couple and their family who had befriended them. He told the judge that there were overtones of evil and violence in the article, which blackened the character of Miss Stamp.

Lord Justice Donaldson, sitting with Mr Justice Webster, said the article had been liable to prejudice the fair hearing of Miss Stamp's retrial, "although, happily, she was in the event acquitted and whatever prejudice there was, it was not sufficient to affect the outcome."

He said an agency had supplied a report of the trial to the newspaper and had failed to point out the judge's warning. "In the circumstances I think a wholly nominal fine would be appropriate."

News Group were ordered to pay the costs of the hearing.

Cemeteries strike may end

The strike that has prevented public burials at four corporation cemeteries in Liverpool is expected to be called off today. Officials of the General and Municipal Workers Union will recommend 140 gravediggers and gardeners at a mass meeting to agree to arbitration and end the week-long strike.

Union officers met leaders of the city council yesterday. Sir Trevor Jones, the city council leader, has agreed to suspend a decision to cut £50,000 from the cemeteries budget.

Worker had protested that the cut would lead to a loss of overtime work and the virtual closing of cemeteries at the weekends.

Policemen's jail sentences cut

Sergeant Graham MacPhee, aged 33, of Westminster Road, Osterley, Surrey, and Constable Neil Pond, aged 39, of Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, who were jailed at the Central Criminal Court for fabricating a "sus" offence against two youths, obtained cuts in their sentences the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

MacPhee had his five-year sentence for attempting to pervert the course of justice cut to three years and Pond's sentence was reduced from four years to 21 months.

Tory choice

Mr Robert Key, aged 36, a master at Harrow school, has been adopted as prospective parliamentary Conservative candidate for Salisbury. Mr Michael Hamilton, the present Conservative MP, said in November that he would retire at the next election.

Disease alert

A suspected outbreak of swine vesicular disease led to the closure of Bridge Farm, Shropshire, yesterday. A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said thousands of animals would have to be kept at the farm overnight while tests were completed.

Two-way TV trial begins

By Kenneth Gosling

Two-way television, the subject of a Granada Television experiment that began last weekend, could have a promising future in Britain once a national cable system is in existence.

It was described in London yesterday by Mr Rod Caird, Granada's head of regional programmes, as "the first toe in the water" towards a future when many people in their homes will be able to respond directly to television programmes.

The Granada experiment involves the installation of special equipment in 65 homes in the North-west and continues for 12 weeks. The period may be extended after a study of the results.

Mr Caird said it was not yet possible technically to conduct the kind of work being done at Columbus, Ohio, where thousands of people could now talk direct to their television sets; but a question could be asked of a panel of 60 people, with the results being screened within two minutes and 15 seconds.

Granada began its foray into what may be in store in the cable age on Friday, asking its viewers questions about the Falklands crisis. But less serious topics may also be debated, such as judging a talent show or pressing a button to give an immediate reply to a question in a studio quiz.

Mr Donald Harker, Granada's director of public affairs, said the experiment, which is costing tens of thousands of pounds and is being carried out in cooperation with the AGB research organization, was "just the tip of the technological iceberg."

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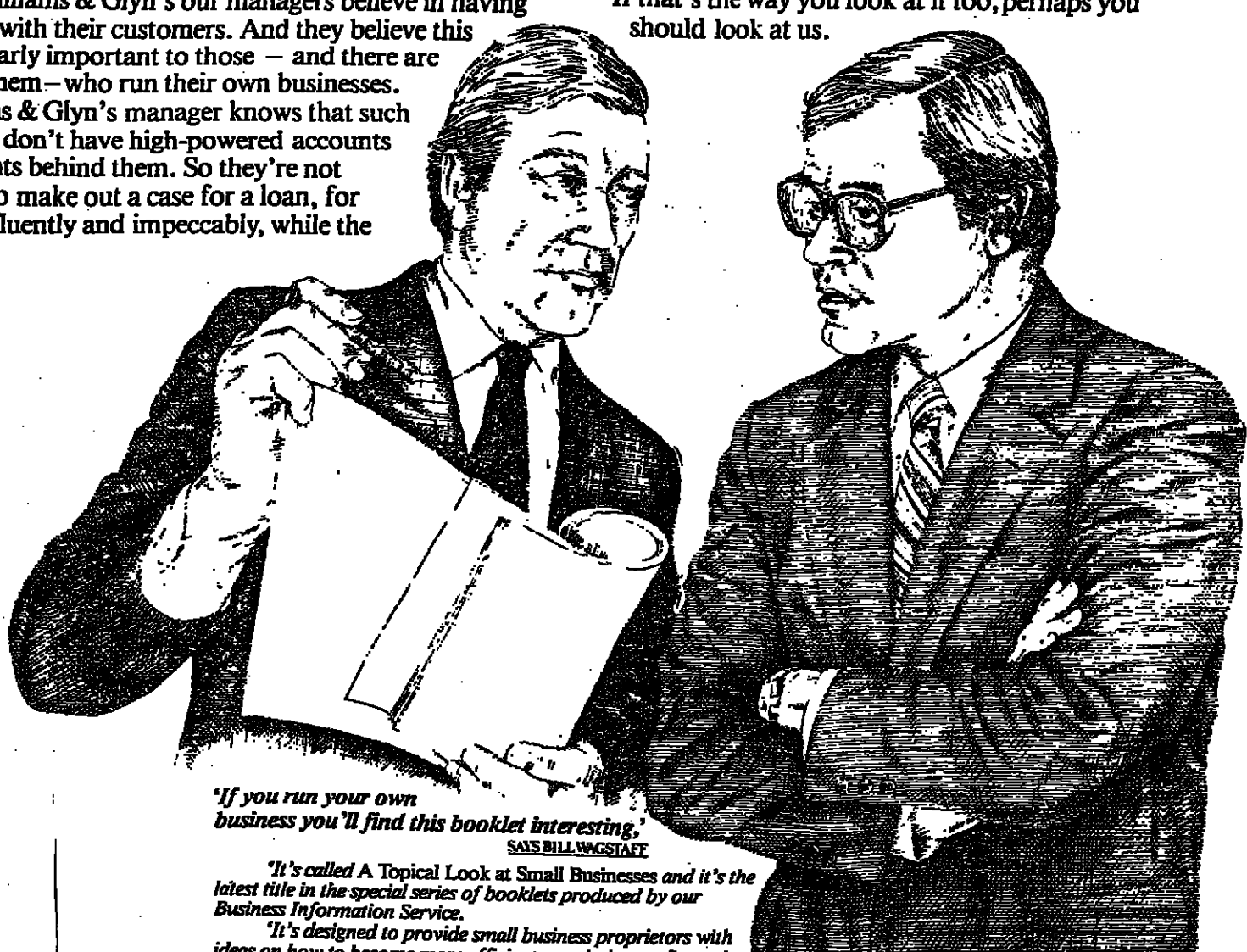
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Sign of shift by Argentina over sovereignty

Haig sees some 'positive elements'

From Christopher Thomas
Buenos Aires, May 10

The Reagan Administration believes that statements emanating from Buenos Aires during the past 24 hours may represent a slight shift by the Argentine Government on the issue of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

The United States is awaiting clarification of remarks made yesterday by Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Foreign Minister, and a statement by a government spokesman today that Argentina had dropped the issue of sovereignty as a precondition for withdrawing its forces from the islands.

Mr. Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that there were "some positive elements" in the latest Argentine announcement. The United States was watching the situation "carefully and hopefully".

The British, however, remain deeply sceptical of Argentine intentions, believing that any shift by Buenos Aires has been in rhetoric rather than substance. "They are saying the same thing about sovereignty, but in a different way," a British diplomat said.

The British contend that Argentina has shown no flexibility since it invaded the islands on April 2 and that it is now trying to retain its "spoils of war" by prolonging negotiations endlessly.

Britain, on the other hand, has made considerable adjustments to its original negotiating position, according to British diplomats.

Although not wishing to spell out what these adjustments are, Britain is known to have shown flexibility by dropping its earlier opposition to United Nations involvement, by accepting the concept of a phased withdrawal of Argentine forces, by abandoning its initial insistence of a restoration of exclusively British administration, and watering down the role which Britain must play in determining their own future.

The flexibility being shown by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's government is designed on part to ensure the continued support of the United States and the EEC.

Although the United States continues to be active in behind-the-scenes diplomacy, officials concede that the only peace initiative now in play is the one undertaken by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General. Mr. Haig said the United States wholeheartedly supported the Secretary-General's peace efforts.

Wills made verbally are valid

By Frances Gibbs

Service men on active duty have the right to make a privileged will without observing any of the formalities required by law, according to an article in the Law Society's Gazette this week. But they should be warned that such wills, even uttered verbally in battle, still hold good afterwards, it says.

Mr. P. R. Bagwell Purvey, the author, who is a solicitor in Tunbridge Wells, says: "All those who experience privileged circumstances should be warned of the lasting effect of their privileged wills. A will should be advised to review their affairs when the dust has settled and to restore the position with a fresh, formal will."

After two world wars, many smaller engagements and a long period of national service there must be many such wills now in existence which may or may not represent the intentions of their authors today, Mr. Purvey notes.

There must also be a certain potential for fraud because of the low standards of proof required for the existence of a privileged oral will.

"It is quite possible that the testator, having survived the time of danger, may forget what he has done or it may not occur to him that he has done anything permanent at all."

But the article defends the right of members of the forces in military service and of mariners or seamen at sea to dispose of their estates without formality. "That privilege has existed for hundreds of years, and it is not for us to put it down, however much we may have disposed towards tidiness and certainty in our legislation."

Advice on wills is issued to servicemen in a Ministry of Defence Form 106; it is a successor to the one form that was contained in the now obsolete Soldiers' Pay Book, and is freely available to all ranks.

From Christopher Thomas
Buenos Aires, May 10

There were growing indications in Buenos Aires tonight that Argentina might be prepared to accept a brief transitional period in which a joint government would administer the Falklands before the islands were handed over to complete Argentine rule.

This apparent slight shift in the junta's position is not regarded as a significant claim because its essential claim to have its sovereignty recognized as a precondition to any settlement remains intact.

Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Foreign Minister, has succeeded in the past few days in confusing Argentina's exact position on sovereignty in a series of conflicting and self-contradictory statements.

It seems he is anxious to be seen willing to negotiate and to be flexible while, in fact, not budging from the central demand on sovereignty. Foreign Ministry sources confirmed today that there was absolutely no change in that position.

But an official did say that a brief transitional arrangement might be acceptable, perhaps lasting three years or even five, but certainly anything in the long term, like the Hongkong arrangement, was out of the question.

He thought it might be possible for a palatable form of words to be found in which Britain would, in effect, acknowledge Argentina's claim to the islands.

Señor Costa Méndez was quoted in one interview as saying that Argentina was not making the acceptance of

Fallen Briton buried under a foreign flag

From Our Own Correspondent, Buenos Aires, May 10

"If I should die think only this of me: that there's some corner of a foreign field that is forever England"—Rupert Brooke.

The bleak and savage lands of the Falklands may not be foreign, but there is an unknown corner where Lieutenant Nicholas Taylor, the Sea Harrier pilot shot down last Tuesday, today lies.

Last night, the Argentines watched him being buried on television how they honoured him in death and buried him with their own war dead.

There was nothing British about the ceremony. Forty Argentine soldiers stood rigidly at attention with rifles gripped diagonally across their chests, in the howling wind, as a priest muttered softly in Latin and shivered inside his anorak. The blue and white Argentine flag cracked in the wind.

For 30 minutes, Argentine television showed scenes of the Falklands. At one point two jets flashed by, their exhausts creating a pull of red and white smoke, and they looked like Harriers. Suddenly there was an explosion.

The film, taken by a state television crew, switched to a crumpled, mangled and barely recognizable Harrier with an identification mark that looked like X43.

The burial was at Goose Green, where the Harrier was shot down. The Argentine announcer said it was brought down on Saturday, May 1, whereas Britain announced that the aircraft

was lost three days later, on May 4. That was the Saturday the Argentines claimed to have destroyed two Harriers.

There was a line of small white wooden crosses and right at the end was the fresh grave of Lieutenant Taylor, covered with newly-dug turf. The Argentine major in charge of the party saluted, but his troops did not. No islanders were present and not a word of English was spoken. The Argentines gave him a strictly Argentine Roman Catholic burial, with not the slightest acknowledgment to the country of his birth.

The television film, shown on Channel Seven, the Government's propaganda station, was persistently interrupted by patriotic commentaries from other stations. Such interventions are happening more and more on all television channels these days.

When two jets were seen screaming overhead against heavy black clouds an Argentine Mirage was pursuing a Harrier. The camera panned across the airfield in a two-second blur just to prove that it was still there, and operable, but it was an absurd scene. For all the viewers could tell it was nothing more than a heap of rubble and mass of holes.

But in a later passage, huge craters were seen in the earth around the airfield. A military spokesman said they were 30 years away and conceded that the airport entrance was badly damaged.

Coca-Cola opts out

Reports that the Coca-Cola company has given financial help to a television programme supporting the Argentine war effort were denied by the company's London offices yesterday.

"It is our understanding that any major international companies trading in Argentina, including soft drinks manufacturers, were invited by the Argentine Government to give their support to the specific mission of the spokesman said. He added: "The Coca-Cola company has no connections with this programme whatsoever, nor has any donation been made."

or money pledged by the company.

"However, we understand that the owners of the local and independently operated bottling plants may have confirmed to the Government's request to take part."

Mr Peter Megson, a village shopkeeper in Lincolnshire, has banned all products made by international companies who allegedly contributed to the Argentine war effort. He cleared Coca-Cola from the shelves of his shop yesterday and poured it down the drain and then dumped Colgate soap and shaving cream in the dustbin.

More cruises hit: P&O complains of big losses

By David Hewson

The requisitioning of the Canberra and the Uganda, and Cunard's Queen Elizabeth 2 which is out of the market until at least the end of July, will boost the business of Soviet cruise ships looking for British passengers.

Six Soviet ships now operate out of Leningrad and the Russian capacity for British tourists has increased by 40 per cent over the past year, according to P & O, but most of those affected by the cancellation are deferring their holidays until the British vessels return from the task force.

"A lot have said that they will stay with us; their support has been overwhelming," a P & O spokesman said yesterday.

Cunard has diverted some of its disappointed passengers on to other vessels in the line and outside fleets, and the company has offered full refunds. The QE2's cruise itinerary was more upmarket than those of the Canberra which concentrated on cruises to the

Mediterranean, Canaries and Scandinavia.

The QE2 had planned a Mediterranean cruise and a transatlantic crossing involving two journeys to Bermuda and the Caribbean out of New York.

"We are making alternative arrangements but a lot of the passengers are frequent passengers on the QE2 and don't want to be transferred to another vessel," a Cunard spokesman said. "They prefer to wait until she returns."

Executives of P & O met representatives of the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Trade yesterday to complain that compensation payments for the requisitioned vessels are not being made quickly enough. The company was unwilling to emphasize its criticism of the Government yesterday, but said: "We are a little worried about the late payment due to us."

In fact, P & O believes that it is now out of pocket

Argentine sovereignty a precondition of any negotiated settlement but added that "any negotiations must eventually lead to recognition of Argentine sovereignty."

The flurry of diplomatic activity at the United Nations seems to be at least partly concerned with Argentina's apparent willingness to consider a transitional arrangement. That apparent shift of ground may, however, be nothing more than a negotiating tactic since up to now any attempt to be flexible has immediately been quashed by the dominant hardliners in the military Government.

The role of Señor Costa Méndez and Señor Enrique Ros, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs who is at the United Nations, must be regarded as little more than that of a messenger. It is clear that they do not have power to negotiate and that they must act in the strict confines laid down by the military rulers.

The exact state of the Peruvian effort to find a solution is not clear. Two peace plans have been proposed by President Fernando Belaúnde Terry, one on May 1 and the other last week. The first plan has been publicly rejected but the status of the other is unclear.

Relations between Argentina and Chile improved sharply last week as a result of Chilean help in the rescue of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano.

The arrival in Santiago of a special representative of the Argentine navy bearing a message of thanks from President Galtieri coincided with statements of the Chilean Ambassador in Buenos Aires, Señor Sergio Onofre Jarpa, that Argentina need not fear that Chile "would take advantage of the situation and act behind her back".

On the contrary, Señor Jarpa stated, the Argentine people could rest assured that "their flank is protected by Chile's firm, loyal position."

The Argentine Foreign Ministry reacted favourably to Chilean assurances that Santiago would in no way intervene in favour of Britain.

The Times

In exchange for accreditation to the task force news organizations agreed with the Ministry of Defence that dispatches filed by "war" correspondents would be subject to excision of detail considered sensitive for operational reasons. This is carried out prior to transmission by a MoD press officer with the fleet. In addition, transmission is frequently heavily delayed pending release of official information in London—a practice now being reviewed at MoD. Upon receipt at MoD, the copy is again read by officials and occasionally further excision of detail and names has been suggested. The Times, like other British newspapers, has occasionally been requested by government officials not to publish certain items for reasons of operational security, but the decision to comply rests entirely with The Times.

It added that the Chilean Government had also clarified several specific misunderstandings arising out of the Anglo-Argentine dispute. According to Argentina, Santiago has denied that the

task force is redistributing the lessons of history—war at sea is long periods of boredom chased by periods of frantic activity. Hour after hour, men at defence stations wait for an attack. Suddenly, the klaxon breaks the peace, and all the ship's company rushes to action stations.

Hearts beating faster, adrenalin surging in their veins, they prepare to repel the incoming threat. It could be a submarine, the Argentine fleet or, more likely, an air raid.

because of the requisition. The company could have expected advance bookings and payment on both ships which would exceed the £5.4m it has received for the vessels, and the Elk ferry, so far. The Canberra payment includes a £750,000 requisition fee for 30 days, and a fee of £450,000 for the Uganda.

Because of the urgency P & O and the ministry agreed to the requisition of the ships first, before detailed discussions on payment began. Those talks now seem likely to be protracted, since it is difficult to forecast how much the vessels' future commercial earnings might be affected by requisition.

Whatever occurs in the Falklands, the vessels are likely to return to the commercial market with only a few days' notice, giving their owners little time to fill them with fare-paying passengers.

By the end of last week the ministry had paid

Belgrano sinking Chile embraced for its rescue effort

From Florencia Varas, Santiago, May 10

British destroyer Exeter ever entered Chilean waters or made use of Chilean ports. Similarly, the Chileans have let it be known that the oil tanker Tide Pool was never delivered to Chile, and that Chile has never supplied fuel to British ships involved in the conflict, and will not do so in the future.

According to the Chilean Ambassador, relations between the two countries have "entered a new stage" with the clarification of Chile's neutrality and the exposure of rumours and intrigues circulated by sectors interested in weakening relations between the two countries.

Señor Jarpa noted that Chile's help in the rescue operations had evoked the gratitude of the Argentine Government and people.

Venezuela has warned Britain that, in the event of an attack on continental Argentina, Caracas would send Argentine military aid. Señor Bernardo Alfonso Leal, the Venezuelan Defence Minister, declared that, if such an attack occurred, the other signatories of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty should also provide military assistance to Buenos Aires.

To understand the widespread sympathy for Argentina in Latin America, it must be understood that the average Latin American has always assumed that the Falklands really belong to Argentina. In schools throughout the continent, children learn about "the Malvinas" which the English call the Falklands.

General Gustavo Leigh, a former member of the Chilean Air Force, will testify in court this week concerning what he knows about the murder of Señor Tucapel Jiménez, a former Chilean opposition trade union leader who was assassinated last February.

The body of Señor Jiménez was found in his taxi near a road in the outskirts of Santiago. He was murdered after a weekend when he had become the leading figure in attempts to unify Chile's trade union movement.

The 700 volunteer crew of the QE2, which sets sail for the task force on Wednesday, will entertain the 3,000 troops aboard with all-day film shows and a cabaret. Captain Peter Jackson said yesterday: "My crew are very good at impromptu entertainment. They are planning to put on a special show for the task force."

Captain Jackson's "tiger"—the merchant navy equivalent of a batman—Martin Bowright, was married after a weekend after voluntarily steering for the task force crew.

Mr. Bowright, aged 26, who married 20-year-old Tina Bowright, said: "We talked about it and decided to get married before I went to war. Anything could happen out there. I could be killed and never see Tina again."

Members of the European Parliament, meeting separately at Strasbourg last night, seemed near to reaching a joint approach on the resolution to be debated here tomorrow on the Falklands crisis (George Clark writes).

Both draft texts put the main emphasis on Argentina complying with the United Nations resolution 502, calling for the withdrawal of Argentine forces and a settlement through diplomatic negotiations.

But the Socialists did not appear willing to give united support to the Conservatives' firm proposition that the EEC sanctions against Argentina should be maintained until the Argentines have withdrawn from the islands. The draft Conservative resolution asks the European Parliament to declare that "continued joint action by the Community will increase the likelihood of a peaceful settlement."

Continuation of sanctions could well be influenced by tomorrow's debate, when most of the Irish MEPs, some German Christian Democrats and most Commu-

Strasbourg uncertainty Germans back Irish against sanctions

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Continuation of sanctions could well be influenced by tomorrow's debate, when most of the Irish MEPs, some German Christian Democrats and most Commu-

nists will oppose the continuation of sanctions in view of British military action to regain sovereignty while diplomatic moves stand a chance of succeeding.

The Socialist draft puts more emphasis on an immediate ceasefire and on the United Nations assuming a central role as "the Arbitrator and supervisor of a settlement". It called on the United Nations to publish immediately its peace plan to implement Resolution 502 and to declare its readiness to place a United Nations presence on the islands until the negotiation over sovereignty are successfully concluded.

A debate on Thursday on the effectiveness of the grain embargo imposed against the Soviet Union after the invasion of Afghanistan also underlines, by implication, the Community will increase external relations committee notes that although the EEC, Australia and Canada agreed not to make up lost American grain exports by increasing their own exports, Argentina refused to give any such undertaking.

King makes it clear

King Juan Carlos of Spain opened the thirty-first assembly of the International Press Institute at the mountain town of El Escorial near Madrid with an appeal for understanding of Spain's links to both Europe and the Americas (Harry Debelius writes). This was echoing a phrase from the letter in which he offered five days ago to mediate in the Falklands conflict.

Although he did not specifically mention the Falklands there can be little doubt that the King was trying to explain why Spain's position differs from that of most Western European countries.

"We know very well that Europe is our nearest geographical horizon," he said, "and we also know that Europe without Spain would be mutilated, lacking one of its essential parts."

"But Spain must be faithful at the same time to an historic destiny of universal dimensions. We are a European country but we are likewise an American country. I take the liberty of appealing to you to echo this Spanish message," the King said to the journalists.

In his letter last week to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the King made a personal offer "to contribute, in whatever way and to whatever extent may be deemed opportune" to peace in the South Atlantic.

Since then Sweden has repeatedly asked the Argentine authorities for clarification as to Miss Hagelin's fate but this has not been forthcoming. The Dagmar Hagelin case has become a cause célèbre in Sweden, rivalling that of Mr Raul Wallenberg.

US envoy explains



Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the United States representative to the United Nations (above), has defended her fraternization with Argentine diplomats (our New York correspondent writes).

Mrs Kirkpatrick was criticized particularly for attending an Argentine Embassy dinner on April 2, the night of the invasion of the Falklands. "A very public gesture by not attending would have damaged our ability to mediate the dispute," she said.

She added that since taking up her post she has lunched with Argentine officials three times and dined once. To suggest any unusual relationship would be a gross exaggeration, in her view. She added that the junta ignored American warnings and occupied the Falklands because it was accustomed to using force in internal matters.

British trade union leaders decided yesterday to seek international labour movement support for an economic blockade of Argentina (our Labour Editor writes). The recommendation will be put to Western unions at talks in Brussels involving the executive board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions over the next few days.

About 100 people have left the Falkland Islands since the invasion, reducing the inhabitants to about 1,700 (Staff Reporter writes). Of those who have gone about 20 were born on the islands and 60 were on short-term contracts, according to the Falkland Islands Office. The Foreign Office believes another 20 or more may have flown out.

Red Cross refusal

Sweden asked the International Red Cross for help in questioning Captain Alfredo Astiz, an Argentine marine, captured on South Georgia by British forces (10 Stockholm Correspondent writes).

Captain Astiz, now onboard a British vessel with other prisoners of war heading for Ascension Island, is said by Sweden to be responsible for the arrest and subsequent disappearance in 1977 of Miss Dagmar Hagelin, a 17-year-old Swedish girl.

Miss Hagelin, daughter of Swedish businessman Mr Ragnar Hagelin, was shot by Captain Astiz in a fashionable suburb of Buenos Aires and taken away in a military ambulance, according to eye witness reports reaching Sweden.

One witness, Norma Susana Burgos, herself a refugee from Argentina, was brought to Sweden by the Foreign Ministry in 1980 and described a meeting she had with Miss Hagelin in a military hospital after her arrest. She said that Miss Hagelin was chained to a bed and had a bandage around her head. Miss Hagelin recognized her and they had a brief conversation.

Since then Sweden has repeatedly asked the Argentine authorities for clarification as to Miss Hagelin's fate but this has not been forthcoming. The Dagmar Hagelin case has become a cause célèbre in Sweden, rivalling that of Mr Raul Wallenberg.

Geneva: The International Committee of the Red Cross will not take any action on the Swedish request to question Captain Astiz regarding allegations of involvement in grave human rights violations against opponents of the military junta (Our Correspondent writes).

It is totally out of the ICRC's domain to comply with such a request, "an official said. "We do not differentiate between prisoners under our protection. They all have identical status as far as we are concerned. Inquiries of this nature are dealt with under the provisions of the 1949 Geneva conventions."

Paris shock on Exocet

A report in The Sunday Times that French technicians had trained the Argentines to fit Exocet missiles to the 10 Super Etendard aircraft of the Argentine Navy, thus making it possible to knock out the destroyer Sheffield—has caused shocked dismay (Charles Hargrove writes).

According to a Defence Ministry source, France had done what it had to do as the loyal ally of Britain. The manufacturers of the Exocet had not instructed the Argentines how to connect the missiles to the underlying weapon pods of the Super Etendards.

But they (the Argentines) are the fools; they did it themselves," the source said. The British Government had been given precise details of French missile deliveries to Argentina. It did not appear to have drawn the right deductions from this information. Otherwise, the attack on the Sheffield should have come as a surprise in London.

A report from Buenos Aires, published by Le Monde last week, quoted the Argentine Defence Ministry as saying that local technicians had "done a wonderful job" fitting the missiles to the aircraft.

An independent expert here told The Times that it was a job any well-trained aircraft technician could do. The missiles were delivered complete with a set of instructions.

There are French technicians in Argentina from the Dassault Aircraft Company, which delivered the Etendards, and from other French companies, but their role is purely maintenance, the source said.

Reagan speech and reaction

US hopes to cut Soviet long-range missiles

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, May 10

The aim of President Reagan's two-stage plan for cutting the American and Soviet nuclear arsenals by one third is to get the Russians to make sharp reductions in their powerful land-based force of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

In this way the Americans hope to bring more stability and equality to the nuclear relationship, which Washington contends has recently swung heavily in the Soviet Union's favour, and thereby reduce the risk of a first strike by either side.

In his speech yesterday to the graduating class at Eureka College, his alma mater, President Reagan called for a reduction in the numbers of land and sea-based ballistic missile warheads to equal ceilings at least one third below current levels, and for only half of the reduced number of warheads to be land-based.

He also called for equal ceilings on ballistic missile payloads — known as "throw weight" — at less than current American levels.

The American proposals would reduce the number of warheads in either side's arsenal to around 5,000 and the number of missiles deployed by either side to about 850.

However, at present the Soviet Union's land-based ICBMs are bigger and more accurate than the Americans' land-based counterparts and can carry twice as many warheads.

The President said he was signalling out "land-based ICBMs as a first step in the arms reduction process because those weapons were 'the most destabilizing systems' in the arsenals of the two nations."

Of around 2,400 Soviet missiles, about 1,400 are land-based. They include 308 huge SS18s, each of which carries 10 atomic warheads. The United States at present has nothing to match this weapon. There are also 450 war-headed SS19s and six war-headed SS19s.

reduction talks with the Soviet Union has drawn criticism from Democrats in Congress.

Senator Edward Kennedy, who has been leading the campaign for a nuclear freeze, remarked that "behind the rhetoric, the reality is that President Reagan's proposal would permit the United States to build the MX missile, the B1 bomber and an entire new generation of nuclear weapons. This is not what the American people want when they call for arms control."

Mr Edmund Muskie, a former Secretary of State, suggested that behind the President's proposals might be a secret agenda for side-tracking disarmament while America rearms. However, other Democratic Congressmen conceded that the President had made a "good start."

It is expected that conservative Republicans will attack the proposals because of their failure to refer to the concept of linkage to Poland and Afghanistan. Last January, Washington refused to agree to a date for starting strategic arms talks because of Soviet support for the imposition of martial law in Poland. Yesterday the President said he hoped the talks would begin at the end of next month.

Apart from the absence of linkage, the President's speech was also noteworthy for its moderate and conciliatory tone. He called for a "new understanding" between the two countries and expressed confidence that "together we can achieve an agreement of enduring value that reduces the number of nuclear weapons, halts the growth in strategic forces and opens the way to even more far-reaching steps in the future."

This was a far cry from the language used in his first press conference last year when he said that Soviet leaders had reserved "the right to commit any crime, to lie, to cheat."

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Kremlin condemns initiative

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, May 10

The Russians today dismissed President Reagan's latest proposals for deep cuts in Soviet and American strategic forces as "hopeless attempts to ensure American superiority over the Soviet Union."

"The brunt of the Administration's new approach to the talks on the limitation of strategic weapons is designed to be borne by the Soviet Union, which would have, if not to destroy, then at least to reduce the ground-based missiles with multiple warheads, while the United States would have to lessen the number of its missiles only insignificantly," Tass said.

The news agency describes the President's proposal as an attempt to neutralize the anti-nuclear movement in the world and growing anti-American sentiment in Western Europe.

Mr Reagan had kept quiet about the American programme to deploy MX intercontinental missiles, strategic B1 bombers and Trident nuclear missile carriers.

"These are precisely the systems by means of which Washington is trying to build up the arms race," Tass said.

Quoting American observers, Tass said there was far too little evidence that the Administration was showing a serious attitude to the question of limiting the arms race.

There is no doubt that the Kremlin is still deeply sceptical of any arms reduction proposals coming out of Washington and there will still have to be long hard bargaining before any element of the latest Reagan proposals find favour in Moscow.

● Bonn: West Germany today warmly welcomed Mr Reagan's nuclear arms reduction proposals as a sign of his "firmness and willingness to negotiate."

The President's speech at Eureka College, Illinois, yesterday was an "essential contribution" to the preparations for the Western summit meetings in Versailles and Bonn in June and to the constructive contribution of East-West relations, an official statement said.

By this it evidently meant that the President had done much to reassure his European allies — and their peace movements — that he wants disarmament as well as a strong NATO.

● Copenhagen: Former President Jimmy Carter described the Reagan proposals as excellent, but he added he would have preferred the Administration to go ahead with the ratification of the Salt 2 Treaty (AP reports).

● Tokyo: Japan today welcomed Mr Reagan's proposals, which were described as constructive in promoting nuclear disarmament.



At ease: Iranian troops take a rest on a couch left behind by the retreating Iraqis.

Khorramshahr siege is 'imminent'

Teheran, May 10.—Iranian troops have launched the third phase of their offensive towards the strategic port of Khorramshahr (Khunin-shahr), Tehran radio said today, citing the Army's central command.

The third phase of the offensive began Sunday night at 19.15 GMT with a powerful advance by Islamic combatants to liberate Khunin-shahr. Press reports today said encirclement of the port city, held by Iraqi forces since the Gulf War began 19 months ago, was imminent.

Khorramshahr is the last important place controlled by Iraq in the province of Khuzestan, in South Western Iran. Iranian forces were advancing north from the advancing Khorramshahr highway towards the border town of Shalamche to control the region and its communication links with Khorramshahr, the radio reported.

"Enemy troops, who for several days had reinforced their fortifications and received reinforcements of armoured and mechanized units, suffered heavy losses," Khorramshahr, the "city of blood", where the Iraqis established a stronghold in the western sector, is a symbol of resistance and courage to Iranians. Taking it would mean success for the offensive launched on April 30, and the end of the war in Khuzestan, observers said.

● Since the offensive began, Iran claims to have recaptured 1,300 square miles of territory, taking the towns of Hamid, Hoviseh and Hosseini, Tehran radio said. Its troops also crossed the Karun river, splitting the Iraqi force occupying Khuzestan and forcing Iraqi units to pull back to the frontier.

Apparently scenting victory in the war, Iraq sought to reassure other Arab countries in the region by saying it wanted good relations with all its neighbours. A Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by the radio said: "We emphasize once again that we support the policy of peaceful coexistence in the region."

The statement, however, said that future relations with the countries in the region would depend on their attitude towards the Iranian revolution. Conservative Gulf states have sided with Iraq in the war.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry attacked President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and pledged to help the Iraqi people to overthrow him.

Recent successes have toughened Iran's position on the war. Several Iranian leaders, including President Ali Khamenei, have said the war would continue until the regime in Baghdad is overthrown.

The latest phase of the Iranian offensive appears to be the most difficult military operation facing Iran's rulers. If successful, it would deprive Iraq of any leverage to press the war to a face-saving conclusion.

The Emir of Bahrain, Shaikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, arrived in Kuwait on a state visit, during which he was expected to discuss the war with the Emir of Kuwait, Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah.

After Shaikh Isa's arrival, the official Kuwaiti news agency said Shaikh Jaber had telephoned President Hussein to discuss what it called matters of mutual concern. It gave no other details. Kuwait is about 60 miles from Khorramshahr.

Bahrain has poor relations with Iran, which it has accused of being behind an alleged plot against Shaikh Isa's government. Iran has denied the charge — Reuters.



Britain will not 'buy' sanctions

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, May 10

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, this evening strongly criticized suggestions that Britain should buy an extension of EEC sanctions against Argentina by agreeing to an increase in farm prices.

It was Britain, he said, which was bearing the vast bulk of the cost of standing up to the military aggression of a dictatorship and which the Community had condemned. It would, he said, be a terrible reflection on the Community if it were to be suggested that its foreign policy was worked out on the basis of negotiations on the level of farm prices.

This, he said, was just not a sensible way for European foreign policy to be seen and would be no credit to the Community if the outside world were given the chance to view it as such.

Mr Walker, in Brussels for the last round of negotiations on the size of this year's farm price increases, was being closely questioned by French and West German journalists about whether Britain was prepared to offer European solidarity in return for the agreement by the EEC to impose trade sanctions on Argentina.

Mr Walker rounded on the questioners. Of course Britain would support any of its partners if its own sovereign territories were invaded by a foreign aggressor. But there was not and could not be any suggestion that a debt of gratitude was due by Britain to its partners merely because it was standing up to an aggressor.

As far as farm prices were concerned, he made it clear that Britain, along with Greece and Italy, still maintained its reserve about the current price package, estimated to cost an average of about 11 per cent more on agricultural spending.

Britain would, he emphasized, veto any attempt to impose this increase by a majority decision and he regarded it as a dangerous distortion of the common agricultural policy for any nation to introduce national aid to make up any loss in farmers' income due to a failure to agree a price deal.

Mme Edith Cresson, the French Minister, said that she would have to accept a British veto on prices if need be, rather than try to push through the majority decision.

EEC sourness ruins lunch

From Ian Murray, Brussels, May 10

Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, cancelled a lunch date today with the European economic press when he was due to discuss "25 years of the Community."

According to his secretary, who had the job of ringing round to call off the luncheon, he had felt unable to attend because of the crisis facing Europe. There had, she explained, been a meeting during the weekend which had gone so badly that Mr Thorn was not able, at the moment, to talk about the subject.

That meeting was the one held in the beautiful village of Villiers-le-Temple, deep in the green countryside southwest of Liege. All the foreign ministers from the Community had gathered there for what has become a traditional away-from-it-all informal get-together when the problems of the world can be discussed out of the public eye.

The first meeting of this type was held in June 1974, at the last round of negotiations on the size of this year's farm price increases, was being closely questioned by French and West German journalists about whether Britain was prepared to offer European solidarity in return for the agreement by the EEC to impose trade sanctions on Argentina.

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so successful that the foreign ministers decided to institutionalize it, with each country acting as host for one during its six-month presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Yesterday was the second time Belgium had staged its "Gynach forum" meeting in the thirteenth century commanderie at Villiers-le-Temple. On the first occasion, in October 1977, Britain was under heavy pressure from all its partners then to confirm its commitment to EEC membership.

This past weekend it was under similar pressure to agree to pay its membership fees — in the form of budget contributions — and was similarly unable to impress its European partners with its European commitment.

Part of this bad feeling clearly rubbed off in terms of the discussion over whether or not the Community should continue its sanctions against Argentina over the Falklands crisis.

There can be little doubt that if Britain was not causing trouble over the budget issue, support over the sanctions would have been more forthcoming. As it was, it was because of Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister who chaired the meeting, that the level of discontent with Britain was not made clearer.

He had been authorized to tell the press that EEC support was at a political and diplomatic level "but not a military solution to the conflict". Mr Tindemans, in an extraordinary press conference, did not utter those damning words and so, perhaps, gave slightly more elasticity to the British position.

The second Villiers-le-Temple meeting could well mark a new stage in the evolution of the community. It was no longer a quiet, away-from-it-all meeting. Apart from the fact that angry farmers with their tractors invaded the meeting place, it meant that the press had formalized its right to find out what had been going on behind the supposedly closed doors.

Setback for climbers on Everest

Peking — Cold and fatigue drove a British expedition on Mount Everest temporarily back to base camp after reaching a height of 25,600ft on a tough unclimbed route on the Tibetan side.

A report from the six-man team led by Chris Bonington said four of the climbers had spent three weeks at altitudes too high for the body to get proper rest.

They had planned to set up a further camp at their high point last week before attempting the most difficult part of their climb up the virgin east-north-east ridge, a series of dangerous pinnacles.

British film men injured

Grasse — Two British filmmakers were seriously injured when the helicopter they were using to make a publicity film crashed near the French Riviera town of Grasse.

Mr Jerry Paulson, 51, a producer, and Mr Seamus Corcoran, 42, a cameraman, were taken to Nice hospital after the low-flying helicopter was thrown to earth by a gust of wind.

Rebels clash with Thai force

Bangkok — Thai government forces sent reinforcements to a northern province after a clash with a heavily-armed group of Shan United Front rebels. The rebels left four people dead.

The fighting broke out when the government forces encountered about 40 rebels seeking food from villagers, police said.

Namibia contact

Geneva — Mr Chester Crocker, the American Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, had a full day of meetings with South African representatives, a United States official said. The subject was Namibia, although South Africa declines to acknowledge it. (Alan McGregor writes).

Crash kills 30

Bahrain — Thirty people died when a South Yemen airliner on a domestic flight plunged into the sea as it came in to land at Aden airport. The aircraft broke up after it hit the sea about half a mile from the coastal runway and came to rest in shallow water. Nineteen people were saved.

Sabbath flights

Jerusalem — The Israeli Supreme Court has forbidden the Government to suspend El Al flights during the Jewish Sabbath, pending authorization from the finance committee of Parliament. Employees of the national airline had appealed against the decision to stop all El Al flights from Friday to Saturday evening.

Counterfeit haul

Rome — Italian customs police seized counterfeit dollars with a face-value of more than £250,000 at Rome's international airport shortly before shipment to the United States. The \$100 banknotes were apparently printed in Naples. Three men are in custody.

Birds seized

Santhia, Italy — A farmer, who allegedly smuggled protected birds of prey to Arab countries, has been arrested here. Several hawks, falcons and eagle owls were seized from his farm.

Brezhnev trip

Moscow — President Brezhnev has accepted an invitation to pay an official visit to Nicaragua. The Soviet press said, without mentioning a date for a trip.

Doctor tells of Hinckley obsessions

Washington, May 10. — John Hinckley's psychiatrist told a court here that Mr Hinckley told him four months before shooting President Reagan that he had two obsessions in life: Miss Jody Foster, the teenage actress, and writing.

"I care about nothing else," Dr John Hopper, the psychiatrist, said Mr Hinckley told him in a November 1980 counselling session. Dr Hopper said that he saw Mr Hinckley 12 times between October 28, 1980, and February 27, 1981. The following March 30, Mr Hinckley had admitted, he shot President Reagan and three other men outside a Washington hotel.

A month before seeing the psychiatrist for the first time, Mr Hinckley went to New Haven, Connecticut, where Miss Foster was a student at Yale University, in hopes of establishing a "relationship."

In an autobiography he wrote for Dr Hopper, Mr Hinckley said that, while he was in New Haven, "my mind was on the breaking point the whole time...the relationship I dreamed about went nowhere."

During Mr Hinckley's depression, his father had wanted to send him to an Arizona mental hospital, but Dr Hopper talked the family out of that course.

The elder Hinckley had wanted to institutionalize his son to curb his use of the tranquilizer Valium, but Dr Hopper told the assailant's father that the dosage was not enough to cause the depression Mr Hinckley experienced.

Instead, Dr Hopper proposed a set of goals designed to make the younger Hinckley more independent and, in the meantime, administered treatments designed to reduce his anxiety. — AP



Protest in the pews: A woman in the congregation welcoming Dr. Billy Graham to Moscow hangs a sign protesting at the lack of religious liberty in Russia.

Limited hopes of Moscow religious conference

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, May 10

A world religious conference opened here today with a call from Patriarch Pimen, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, for a joint struggle by all religious leaders against nuclear weapons and a message of "profound approval" for the conference's work from Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister.

Addressing 450 brightly-robed delegates, representing several dozen churches and religions, Patriarch Pimen expressed concern over the emergence of a doctrine of "limited" nuclear war, and expressed his church's support for the Soviet Government's offer to freeze deployment of its missiles in Western Russia.

On the platform beside him was Dr Billy Graham, the American evangelist, who is taking part in spite of strong opposition by the Reagan Administration.

Seven delegates and observers from Britain included a Quaker, a member of the

Roman Catholic organization Pax Christi together with the Rt Rev John Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, and the Rev Richard Charles, secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A large number of Anglican clergy from Africa are also attending. The Vatican has sent two senior observers but no official delegates, although Roman Catholic bishops have come from Poland and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

Several Western clergy said after the opening session that they were hopeful the conference would not be simply a propaganda forum, and said the 72-year old patriarch's address showed sensitivity to the political and religious differences among the delegates.

They said the conference would not achieve any dramatic results, but could help to create an atmosphere of confidence and East-West understanding essential for any steps towards abolishing nuclear arms.

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Church appears split as Poles urged to strike

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, May 10

Both the Polish government and the church leadership are worried that street protests this week, especially on Thursday, will provoke yet another violent confrontation, possibly alarming the Soviet Union and strengthening the hand of the hardline Marxist.

The emerges explicitly from sermons given over the weekend and implicitly from anxious commentaries in the Polish official press.

The Solidarity underground, via a short burst of radio transmission last night, broadcast a call for a 15-minute general strike on Thursday, to mark five months of martial law. The appeal has already been circulating in several factories in the Warsaw area and, as inter-city telephone links are now functioning, it must be assumed that activists have passed the word to other cities.

Although there is nothing much that the authorities can do to prevent such a short strike, it will encourage the underground which, since its steel marches on May Day, has become more open in its defiance of martial law.

According to some activists, the protests will gradually escalate and plans have been mooted for a television wave-length — technically possible — and further demonstrations in the following week. Almost every week now produces an anniversary

of some event under martial law — for example the shooting of miners on December 16, 1981, could be used as a reason to protest.

But police behaviour on May 3 was meant to show both the population and, in the view of Western diplomats, the Soviet Union, that the military authorities would not tolerate public disorder.

The Primate, Archbishop Józef Glemp, seems in his concern to avoid public unrest, to have accepted one of the Government's explanations for the street riots last Monday — that they were staged overwhelmingly by young people who had been misled by underground activists.

In sermons in Warsaw, Cracow and Czestochowa over the weekend, the Primate constantly emphasized that "it is a horrible crime to exploit the noble patriotism of the youth for purposes which are not patriotic".

Other priests, however, say privately that the street unrest is not so much a youth rebellion, as a symptom of popular discontent with martial law.

The official news agency unusually carried the Primate's sermons in considerable detail, and a lengthy television commentary last night (again very unusually) showed clips of the riots in an attempt to demonstrate that such riots were "anti-patriotic" and anti-socialist.

The Munich-based station, Radio Free Europe and the American-based Voice of America, are usually blamed for encouraging the demonstrations, by broadcasting times and places of planned protests into Poland. It is understood that the Foreign Ministry has protested to the US Embassy in Warsaw about the radio programme.

The official press seems to be motivated by different concerns in criticizing the riots. Newspapers such as *Rzeczpospolita* which are often viewed as expressing the line of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, appears to be worried that dialogue and the social calm needed to establish a front of national understanding will be undermined by the unrest. That is, the hardline Marxists will point to the street troubles as being proof that dialogue does not work.

Other newspapers, such as the *Army* and *Dziennik Wolności* (which at the weekend criticized *The Times* for not mentioning British behaviour in Northern Ireland in its reports of the May 3 protests) appear to view the riots as proof of the continuing activities of Solidarity "Extremists".

Underpinning both these approaches, which mirror the divisions in the party leadership, is the fear that the destruction of Poland's fragile calm will alarm Moscow.

Marcos dismisses his Supreme Court

Manila, May 10 — President Ferdinand Marcos, citing the "tarnished prestige" of his Supreme Court, accepted the resignations of all 14 justices today and said he would form a new court.

He made the announcement in a letter to Chief Justice Enrique Fernando, after a scandal over the tampering with a bar examination to allow one of the justices' sons to pass.

The President's action left the country temporarily without a Supreme Court, the body that upheld the legality of his powers during eight years of martial law, which ended last year.

Chief Justice Fernando, contacted at his office, declined to comment on the acceptance of the resignations of the court. He and four other justices — Mr Antonio Barredo, Mr Ramon Aquino, Mr Ramon Fernandez and Mr Vicente Erika — were linked to a scandal that involved a bar examination taken by Mr Erika's son, Gustavo.

The Chief Justice admitted allowing Mr Gustavo Erika's results to be changed but denied that that was improper because, he claimed, a mistake had been made by

the examiner. The other justices either denied involvement or said that there was nothing wrong with what they did.

President Marcos's letter said his action was taken to restore the "prestige, integrity and good name" of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. In order to create a new court without the burden of tarnished prestige, the present Supreme Court, I have decided in accordance with the advice given me to accept, as I hereby accept, the resignations of all members of the present Supreme Court," he wrote.

The President, who had appointed all 14 justices, said he would name the new court as soon as possible. It would include, he added, "the members of the present Supreme Court whose terms of office are not recommended for termination".

Seven bombs exploded in public places around the city of Zamboanga today, killing four people and wounding 70 others. Zamboanga is considered the key city in the troubled southern island of Mindanao, where Government forces are fighting Communist Muslim separatist insurgents.

The party outlines options for Solidarity

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw, May 10

The Polish Communist Party's views about how and whether to revive the Solidarity free trade union organization have been spelled out with unusual clarity in a restricted 14-page document drawn up by the party's ruling Central Committee.

The document, issued by the propaganda and agitation department of the Central Committee, is intended for use by Communist Party lecturers touring provincial factories in an attempt to mould the opinion of Polish Workers.

So far, the Government's views have been expressed only in vague terms, in a draft Bill intended for public discussion. This concentrated on what the Government did not want: political strikes, a politically-motivated Solidarity leadership, and an organization that challenged membership of the Warsaw Pact.

However, until now it has not been made clear how the party intended to achieve these aims. The latest document, basically, outlines three possible variants.

First, Solidarity could be reactivated but would shed the political elements of its programme and get rid of its present advisers. This option, the document states, is only feasible if a new "initiative group" comes into being and forms a new hierarchy in the union. It would acknowledge the leading role of the Communist Party in Polish society.

The second option under consideration is creating two union organizations — one could have a Christian democratic character, and the other would have a "leftist" that is Communist Party, foundation and would bear the name Workers' Solidarity. The calculation, made clear in the document, is that Workers' Solidarity would gradually eliminate the Christian democratic version.

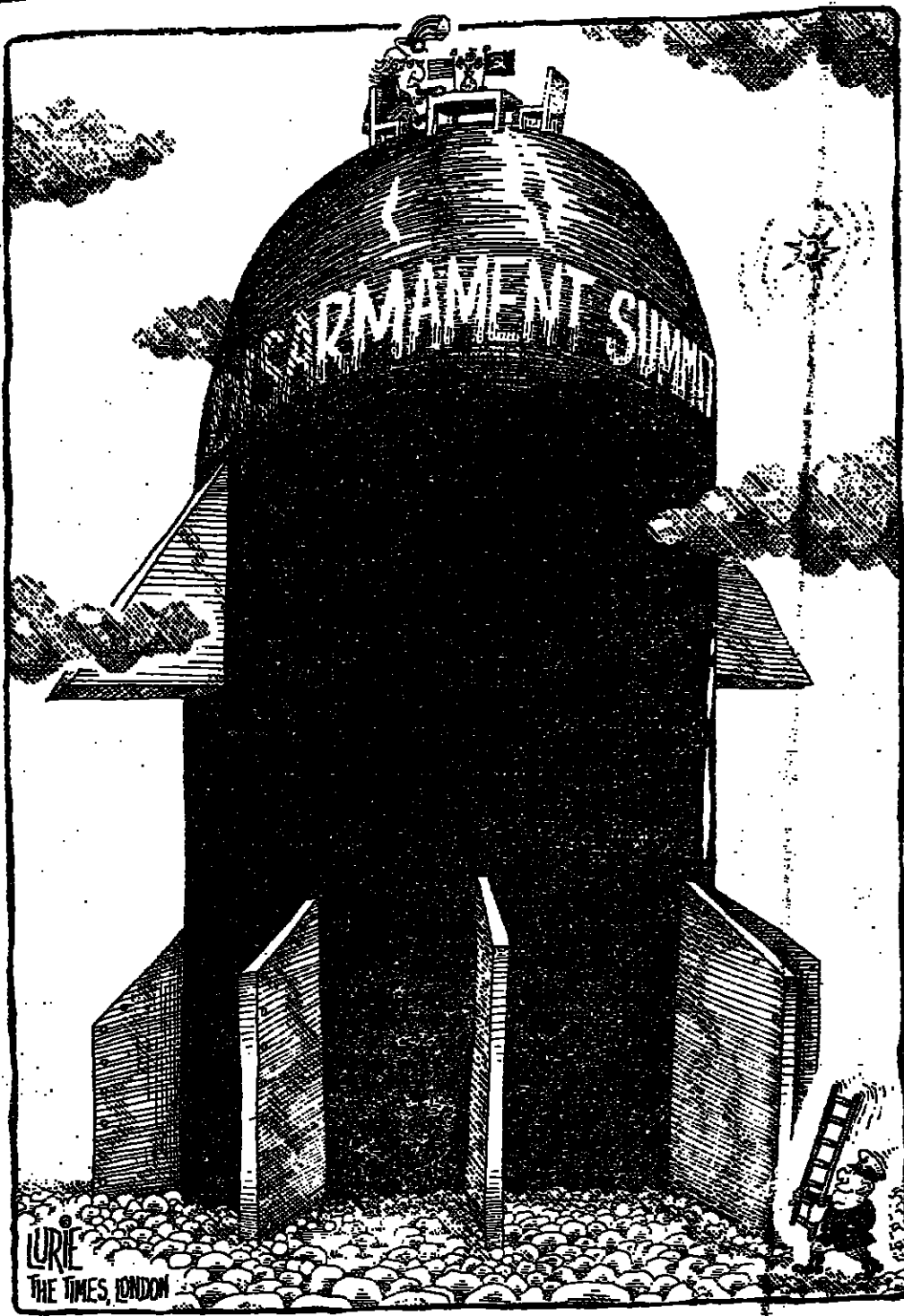
Finally, Solidarity could simply be dissolved, though the document concedes this would arouse opposition in Poland and the West. A variant would be to dissolve both Solidarity and the official union and create a single official union with heavy ideological commitment to the party. This would only be possible when the "party forces have consolidated," says the document, meaning when the party has reestablished its considerably eroded influence in the factories.

The document does not weigh the argument in favour of any of these options: rather they are intended as a framework for decision-making within the party.

The first two options are clearly favoured by those adhering to the line of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, and the third option — dissolution of Solidarity — is probably only supported by a minority of the politburo.

At present, Solidarity and the official unions are suspended but not banned and the authorities to incorporate some elements to incorporate Solidarity activists — that is, those who are not interned or in the underground — in the discussion about the future shape of trade unions.

The document, entitled "Information for Lecturers: problems of the Reactivation of Trade Unions", was evidently leaked by a party lecturer to Solidarity underground activists.



Mitterrand confounds critics after first year

Paris, May 10 — President Mitterrand today celebrated the first anniversary of his election, bolstered by popularity and public support for France's first Socialist government in 50 years.

"None of the catastrophes announced by the Opposition have happened," said the presidential spokesman, M. Pierre Bergey, who called the accomplishments of M. Mitterrand's government "honourable" after one year.

"The nationalizations (of industry) and decentralization (of governmental power) are two essential reforms. With them and the reform of workers' rights, change is starting to take place," he said. "1,000 French citizens were polled last week, 56 per cent said they believed the Socialist Government would stay in power for its full term of office — seven years for the President and five for the National Assembly."

Thirty per cent said the Government would collapse before its mandate ended and 14 per cent had no opinion. Another survey showed that if elections were held now, M. Mitterrand would win a majority thanks to his victory last year against the former President, M. Valéry Giscard

d'Estaing and the Gaullist leader, M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris. M. Mitterrand has learned the art of compromise, especially in economic policy. Nationalization of 36 banks and five industrial groups was passed only after courts ordered higher compensation for the expropriated assets and a tax package worth £1,000m to pay for increased welfare spending was shelved.

M. Mitterrand has loudly denounced the Soviet Union but also enraged the United States by selling arms to Nicaragua.

The Socialist Government suffered a major setback in March when regional elections gave the Opposition control of 58 of 95 provincial councils.

The centre-right Opposition immediately called the elections a defeat for the Socialist-Communist coalition, announcing that "the French are refusing a socialization of the country."

Bonn: President and Mme Mitterrand will make an informal visit to West Germany on May 14 and 15 on the invitation of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, the West German Press Office announced today. — UPI.

E German charged with spying

Berlin, May 10 — An East German agent charged today with spying on military installations of the three Western allies in West Berlin, a justice department spokesman said.

Joerg Wilke, of East Berlin, was arrested last December with four Soviet citizens, an diplomat and three military officers who were later deported to East Berlin after a joint investigation by American and West German authorities.

Reports that were unconfirmed but not denied at the time said the arrest came after an East block attempt to engage a United States sergeant as a spy. The sergeant told his superiors but was instructed to meet the Russians and Herr Wilke in order to lure them into a police trap, newspaper reports said.

The charge of spying on allied military installations in West Berlin technically carries the death sentence as the highest penalty for endangering allied security.

Herr Wilke's trial is not expected to begin until late June, the spokesman said. — AP.

Post-election El Salvador Suchitoto, a town with a great future behind it

From Paul Ellman, Suchitoto, El Salvador, May 10

The crack of a G3 assault rifle brought the mayor to his feet. He glared angrily from his office window at the sheepish-looking young soldier outside who had just accidentally discharged his weapon.

"We're always complaining to their commander about the way they fiddle with their safety catches," the mayor said. But the children playing in the street carried on as if nothing had happened.

Gun-fire is nothing unusual in Suchitoto, a dying town of abandoned homes and businesses where El Salvador's political future is still expressed more in terms of hope and faith than with the almost complacent conviction that the situation is improving — the feeling which has gained ground lately in the capital, San Salvador, only 25 miles to the south.

The town has become a symbol to both sides in a war which has claimed more than 33,000 lives during the past two-and-a-half years. It entered into the mythology of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Movement during the guerrillas' "final offensive" in January last year, when they claimed to have held it for seven days. The Salvadoran government forces have persistently denied that they ever lost the town and have maintained a hold on it, albeit tenuous at times, since the offensive.

During the contest for control most of the town's inhabitants fled. Only 6,000 of the 20,000 people who once lived here have remained, with the bulk finding refuge in festering camps on the outskirts of the capital.

Although the Government has committed troops to a string of positions along the only highway into and out of Suchitoto, the road was cut early today by guerrillas who attacked four miles from the town.

"Watch out, there's shooting ahead," warned a soldier manning a roadblock. A helicopter gunship called up from San Salvador sprayed the guerrillas with machine-gun fire near the roadside.

Two correspondents, relying upon a white handkerchief attached to a car radio, aerial to signal their neutrality, were somewhat perturbed when three heavily armed government soldiers stopped them and ordered them to take cover in Suchitoto. A fourth soldier, disgruntled that there was not enough space for him, fired a round at the starting car.

The town and a desolate air in the main square, unemployed fieldworkers who fled from surrounding hamlets to escape last year's fighting, squatted in abandoned shops. Their children played naked among pigs that roamed the square.

"The voice of a soldier singing as he rummaged on a guitar echoed through the emptiness of what had once been a department store, the Almacén Santa Emilia, but

which now served as a billet. Only the rich silver plate and the finely carved wood fittings of the altar in the church of Santa Lucia vouched that this had once been a prosperous community.

"We used to grow sugar cane, maize, beans and rice around here; Suchitoto was famous for its cigar-makers and for religious figures, made out of sugar," said the mayor, Señor Alfredo Padilla. "Now, because all the businesses which used to pay taxes to the municipality have gone, we can't pay the employees."

Señor José Carlos Fernandez, the town clerk, remembered when Suchitoto used to fill at weekends with visitors drawn by the fishing and boating available on nearby Lake Suchitlan. "There were three bars and three restaurants. You could drive to San Salvador at any time of the night without any problem," he recalled.

The mayor's office was decorated with portraits of early predecessors and a photograph of the late President Kennedy. There was also an oil painting of the engineer who brought piped water to Suchitoto: an irony, because the town has been without water since March 26, when guerrillas blew up a pipeline which ran from a mountain six miles away.

It was not the first time they had done this. "The longest we've had water over the past two years is two or three weeks," said Señor Padilla. Because working sent out to repair the pipeline was delayed by guerrillas, the town now relies upon five road tankers to bring water every two days — only a quarter of Suchitoto's needs, according to officials.

The shortage of water is felt particularly keenly at local schools where children have to run home from classes whenever "nature" calls have to be answered.

Not that the local school system resembles what it was like before the town was struck by civil war. Only four schools are functioning in a district which once boasted 45 in all and there are now less than 50 teachers, whereas there were 185.

Señor Alfredo Alas, the director of the Suchitoto school district, reported that the military situation had deteriorated in the past two years following a lull in guerrilla activity after the March 26 elections. "In the daytime it is quiet, but there is 'shooting every night'," he said.

The independent periodist Chinitas has described the recent elections in El Salvador as "so fundamentally flawed as to be invalid," a contraction of the British Government's favourable report (the Press Association reports).

Lord Chinitas visited the country at the same time as the two observers, Professor Derek Bowett, of Cambridge University, and Sir John Galsworthy, former British Ambassador to Mexico.

Prisoners of conscience



Philippines: Father Edicio de la Torre

By Caroline Moorehead

Father Edicio de la Torre, a Roman Catholic priest of the Society of the Divine Word, was arrested on April 22. He was one of the leading exponents of liberation theology, the Latin American "radical" of religious movement against economic, political and cultural repression, which is growing in strength in the Philippines.

He was a founder of the Federation of Free Farmers in the early 1970 set up to protect the interests of smallholders of landless workers. From December 1974 to April 1980 — and the two previous years underground, since the declaration of martial law in September, 1972, made all Left-wing movements suspect. On that occasion he was one of 33 people charged with conspiracy to commit rebellion.

All the other accused were released by 1979 but Father de la Torre was freed six months later, and then only after an extensive international campaign on his behalf.

Even so, his release was made "temporary" and granted on condition that he continue his theological studies in Rome. On his return to the Philippines last year he therefore still faced possible charges of conspiracy to rebellion.

A priest's arrest last year is believed to have taken place somewhere near Manila and he is now thought to be in a detention centre of the Fifth Military Intelligence Group at Bago Bantay in Quezon City.

Nature is victim of recession

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, May 10

An increased world commitment to the preservation and improvement of the environment making good the ground lost in the last decade, was urged today when President Daniel Moi of Kenya opened an international conference attended by representatives of more than 100 countries.

Called to mark the tenth anniversary of the 1972 Stockholm conference which agreed to establish the United Nations Environment Programme, it seeks a new commitment to environmental protection. But Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, sent a message to the conference with a warning that a decade of economic recession had brought an unprecedented wastage of the earth's natural resource base.

The commitments made at Stockholm in 1972 must not be allowed to fade, he said. President Moi, in his speech, gave a principal cause of the destruction of basic natural resources, and expressed disappointment at the failure of the international community to deal with the problem of poverty in the developing world.

Dr Mostafa Tolba, UNEP's executive director, said in his address that the option facing governments now was stark: take action or face certain disaster.

Progress had been made since the Stockholm conference produced the world's first action plan to safeguard and enhance the environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Economic and environmental science had matured, and increased knowledge had been gained in many fields.

Dr Tolba said, however, that governments were not using the knowledge that was now available. In some cases, the concepts of ecological sound management had been ignored.

Correction

On April 23, it was wrongly stated that the recently reopened Zeit Zeitschrift newspaper had been closed for two weeks. The suspension lasted two months.

Third time lucky for condors?

From Ivor Davis, Ventura, California, May 10

Conservationists were dealt another severe blow recently in their efforts to save the giant California condor from extinction.

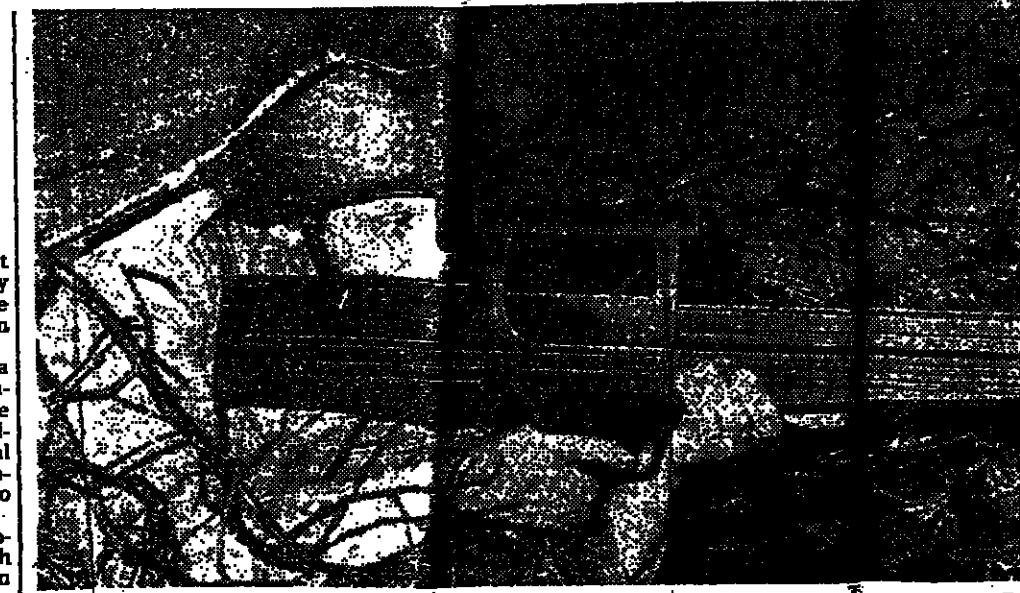
For months, as part of a multi-million Save the Condor project sponsored by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society, ornithologists have been watching two rare condors high on a cliff. Eventually the couple produced an egg, but last March the scientists watched in horror when the egg was broken after a domestic squabble between the prospective parents.

Although romance bloomed again and a second egg was laid, a hungry raven has now laid the villain of the piece. Watching through a powerful telescope quarter of a mile from the mountain nest, the scientists saw egg number two come to naught. As one of the condors tried to stave off the raven the egg was accidentally sent rolling out of the nest, across a rock and over a cliff.

It shattered and the raven ate the remains. "This is very sad," said Mr Jesse Grantham, a member of the team trying to save the tiny flock of huge vultures from extinction. "We had high hopes this time — we thought they were going to make it."

Mr Grantham said that after early squabbles the condors had settled down quietly to the business of hatching the egg and the watching teams' hopes began to soar that the long wait would pay off.

But then the ravens showed up and so alarmed the biologists that they received permission from wildlife officials in Sacramento and Washington to shoot the aggressive ravens. "Now we're hoping it will be third time lucky", Mr Grantham said.



Economic aim: A West German soldier demonstrates the G11, a German-made rifle being tested by Nato. It fires a few, cost-cutting 4.7mm bullet with no cartridge.

Yemenis hooked on chewing the qat

Sana, May 10 — Qat, a mild drug widely used by the people of North Yemen, plays a leading role in the country's economic and social life, but is almost completely ignored in national statistics.

For instance, the North Yemen five-year plan runs to 255 pages, but qat rates only six lines. As soon as the muezzin chants the noon prayer-time, qat becomes an important national preoccupation, and few meetings or conversations take place without it.

Offered as small bunches of leaves, sometimes in plastic bags, it is often sold by children, who pick it wild and display it in the same way that fresh fruit is sold beside country roads in Europe.

The French writer, Joseph Kessel, described qat as "the miraculous Yemeni plant which gives energy, joy, relaxation and a slight intoxication."

In fact, it contains a weak alkaloid which has the same effect as an amphetamine, a synthetic stimulant.

Qat is chewed at home or in public salons furnished only with a few mattresses.

To get the most out of the drug, habitués chew the leaves until they form a spoggy ball in one cheek. These balls are often huge and some addicts end up with outsize cheeks. Chewing qat does not bar smoking or drinking water at the same time.

Women chew the leaves almost as much as men, but never in public and only with other women. Children start from the ages of 12 and 13, even though their parents try to stop them doing so, just as a Westerner will try to stop his offspring smoking or drinking too soon. A Yemeni air hostess explained: "It helps pass the time and it makes you forget your tiredness."

Like many drugs, qat empties the pockets of its addicts. A bunch of leaves of good quality — there are different "varieties" — sells for 10 riyals (about £1.20). As 10 bunches can be chewed in a day, it is estimated that a habitué can easily spend 100 riyals (£12) daily on the habit.

In this remote, mountainous land the annual average per capita income is only £120, making it one of the world's 31 poorest countries.

North Yemeni economists responsible for the five-year plan admit that the growing of qat over a wide area of arable land has caused a drop in food production, as the land might otherwise have been used for other crops, helping to increase exports and cut down on imports.

The Government insists that it is doing its best to limit the growing and consumption of the plant and that no credit or aid is given to farmers to grow it.

In 1972, the Government ordered the destruction of all qat plants, grown on land owned by Muslim organizations.

Defenders of the drug point out that less food is consumed by those who use it. Although it is better to eat food before chewing qat, its acid content can upset an empty stomach — there is no doubt that it does cut down a person's appetite.

Its only apparent health effects are mild symptoms of insomnia, constipation and sexual apathy. — AFP.

ETA plans to exploit World Cup

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, May 10

Suspected Basque terrorists captured at a police road block near Madrid over the weekend were planning to carry out activities which would make the World Cup football competition a sounding board for their political message, according to informed sources here.

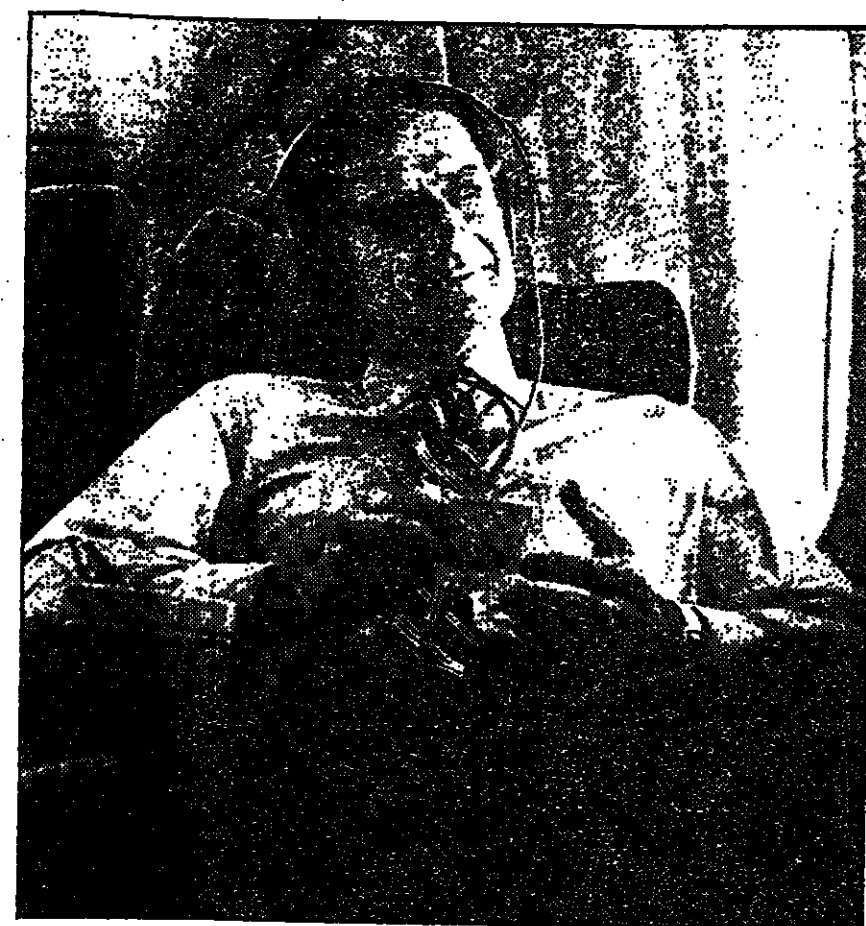
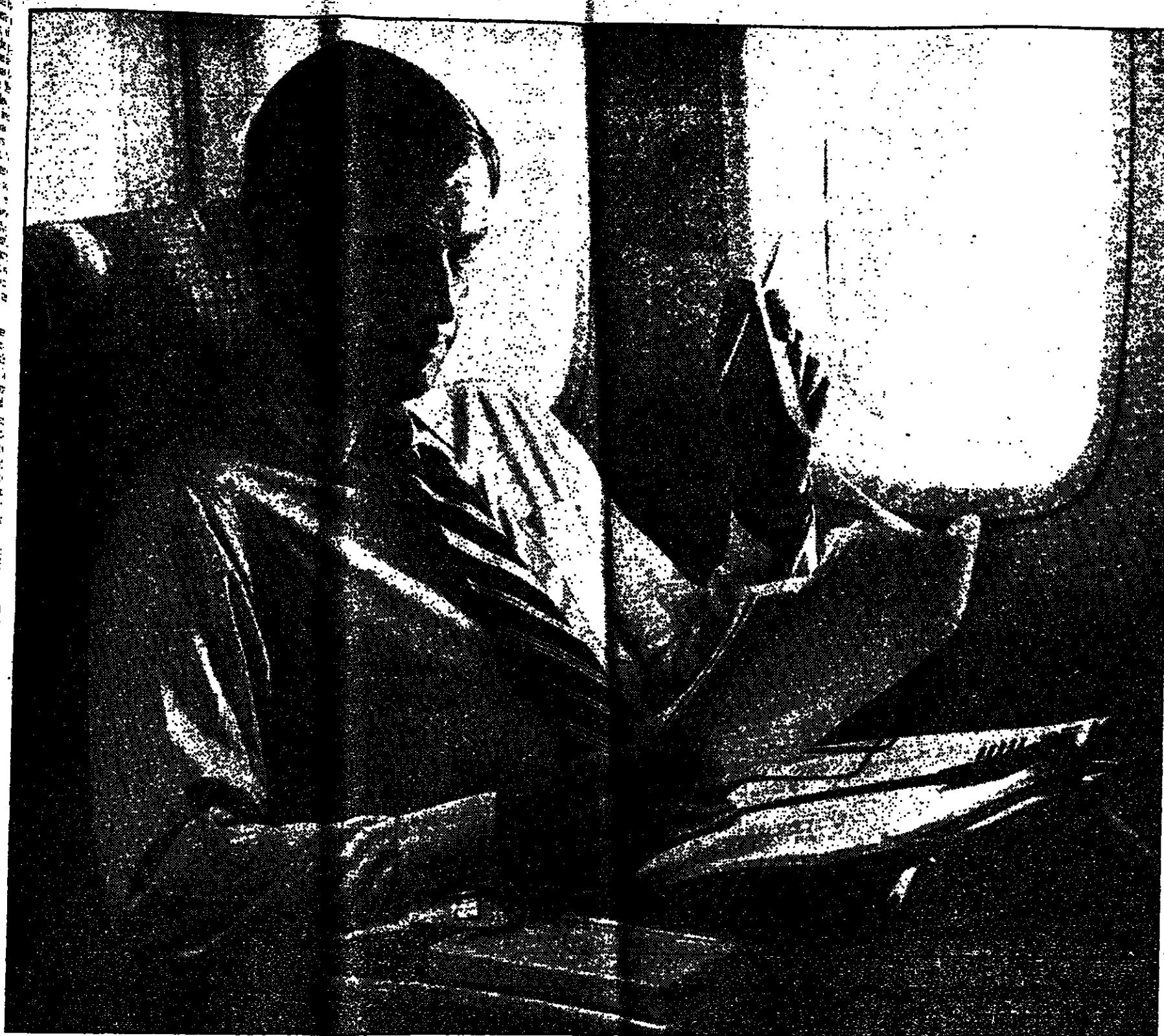
After the arrests in Madrid last week of four people believed to have had contacts with ETA, the separatist organization, police detained two wanted ETA men and a common criminal, as the three were approaching Barcelona by car.

The mission of the ETA men was, according to reports, to lay the groundwork for a series of extremist actions to take place in the last few days before the opening match of the football World Cup scheduled for June 13. Police named the principal suspects as Señor Urzua Vizcarra Olazola and Señor José Luis Folguera Alvarez of ETA, and said two Basque-made Browning pistols were found in their car.

The two men were wanted for questioning in connection with the kidnapping of a Basque businessman, the attempted kidnapping of two other people, a mortar attack on the Civil Governor's office in Pamplona and the destruction of a police armoured car in Bilbao, engineers and technicians assigned to still unfinished nuclear power plant today to decide whether they would go back to work.

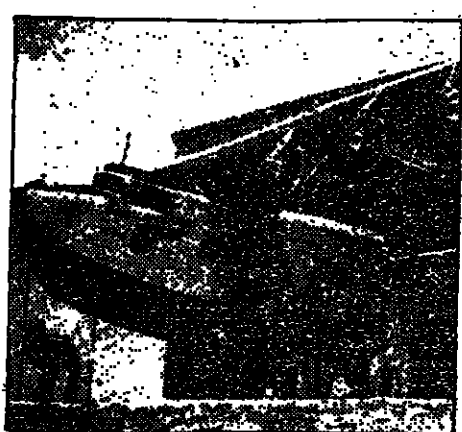
In the southern Spanish city of Almería, Señor Ignacio Bayon, the Minister of Industry and Energy, said today: "It is most important to state the need for construction work to continue at this plant, because you can't give in to terrorist blackmail."

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Male fashion: by Suzy Menkes

Making light of the faintly formal

Smart casual wear sounds like a contradiction in fashion terms. But the renaissance of lightweight tailoring — especially for summer jackets — is a strong trend in menswear.

Sports clothes now dominate so completely out-of-work wardrobes that I had begun to think that menswear was going to come down to suits versus The Rest. Blouses, sweaters, shirts and jeans are still the favourites on the men's clothing rails. I was interested to see that when the children's TV programme *Blue Peter* invited fashionable suggestions for its presenter, Peter Duncan, 95 per cent of the drawings sent in were for variations on jeans and trainers. An entire generation is growing up which has never seen dad in a sports jacket.

The newest jackets around are the exact equivalent of the one-time British male's classic leisure wear, but they are made up in lightweight fabrics which give them an altogether different style and dash.

Significantly, the directional Paul Smith of Covent Garden has made no casual jackets this season. All his new designs are tailored, including a good-looking Prince of Wales check jacket (£129) and a splendid ginger cotton suit with front-pleated trousers (£149).

Lightweight suits, like those

half-gentrified city areas, are always supposed to be up-and-coming. It is surely only our climate that prevents the careful male shopper from investing in an outfit that is a standard in countries with a serious summer. Jaeger say that lightweight suits are hard to sell in our summer season. Since all suits have been pared down and are far lighter in weight than even ten years ago, a fine serge suit can get a man through all but a heatwave.

A jacket is a different matter, partly because it costs half the price of a suit (say £48 to £95) and because it is so obviously versatile. It can go now with fine flannels, with leather trousers, with jeans. It can be worn with toning trousers to stand in as a business suit, or with colourful sailcloth on holiday.

Harvey Nichols specifically aim to make this mix by picking clothes (from different designers) in toning colours. Hornes are also emphasizing tailored and stylish clothes under the banner of "Positive Dressing", a neat way to counteract the sloppy image still in evidence in the streets.

We have the Italians — and especially the unbeatable trio of Armani, Versace and Basile — to thank for the new sharp edge to lightweight tailoring. The styling of their own accessories is also a pointer for general menswear. On the whole, the more formal the

outfit, the more casual the accessories: a crew-necked t-shirt, cotton sweater under a sharp cream shirt, a formal dark shirt and tie under a snazzy striped blazer, a rope belt with a silk suit, plain leather with textured seersucker.

An explosion of pastel colour has put men in the pink — with lemon yellow a runner up. These unexpected colours are used for the most classic V-neck sweaters or for the fresh cotton knits, like Alan Paine's range at Simpson. Again, it is how the colours are put together that is crucial: baby pink goes with sober grey, sharp lemon with dark navy, and the more outrageous the colour palette the quieter is the design of the sweater itself.

Since men's socks and ties are supposed to be a fashion pointer, I should report that the latter are sober, and the former more fancy than we have ever seen. Paul Smith has a splendid range of Neapolitan ice cream striped cotton hosiery.

Lightweight tailoring is a grown-up look, although young men have been quickest to catch on to the trend. Ironically, middle-aged spreads are still being zipped into leather blouses and even (in some ossified circles) popped into denim. Since the kindest cut of all is the one that comes from good tailoring, the jacket revival should be widely welcomed.



Snippets

There is rather a charming story behind that koala bear sweater which must surely rank as the Princess of Wales's most appealing pregnancy outfit. She actually borrowed it from her husband's wardrobe. Her own version is a kangaroo, and the pair of jumpers were a wedding gift from Kim Wran, daughter of the Premier of New South Wales.

The all-Australian sweaters were the work of Jenny Kee, whose Flamingo Park shop in Sydney is a mecca for fashion conscious (and patriotic) young clients.

Jenny Kee started her fashion career when she lived in London in the 1960s and sold her designs in the Chelsea Antique Market.



"Now my whole idea is to create Australian fashion," she said, when I spoke to her in Sydney last week. "It's hard to think of something more typical than pure new wool knitted up from Australian sheep."

More creative and unusual knitting (but no koala bears) will be seen on Thursday, when Patricia Roberts opens her new wool shop at 31 James Street, Covent Garden.

Her poetically photographed books inspired those of us who never quite got round to knitting her intricate fair isles. Knitters will find the Covent Garden shop stacked with her wide colour range of wools, shown against white tiles rather than the inevitable homespun and wicker baskets.

Top: Navy pin-striped cotton double-breasted jacket £47.95, matching trousers £25.75, by Matinique from Way in Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Lemon and blue striped seersucker shirt £25, navy and yellow spotted tie £9.75, and lemon lambswool gloves £17.50. All from Quincey's, 137 Kings Road, SW3. Spotted hanky from Margaret Howell, Pale lemon socks by Cerruti from Harvey Nichols. Beige leather loafers from Jaeger.

Above: Slim-fit, patterned, lined blazer £79.50, cream seersucker trousers £27.50, and navy/white tab-coloured shirt £19.55. All from Quincey's, 137 Kings Road, SW3. Belt by Mulberry.

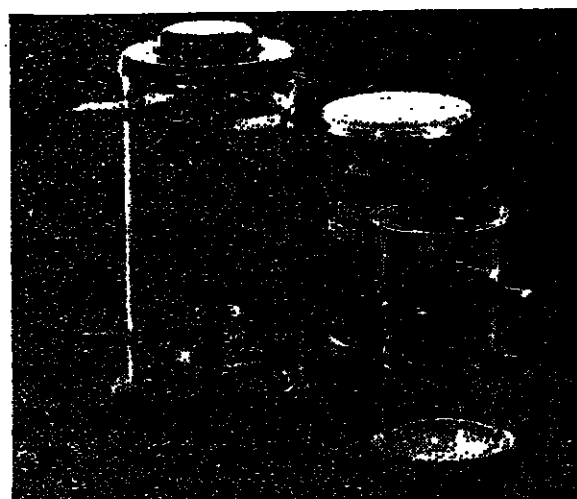
Left: Blue and white checked, striped lined blazer £45.50, khaki cotton shirt £17.50 and blue cotton tie £5. All from the Clothiers, 14 St Christopher's Place, W1. Beige linen double-front trousers £39 from Margaret Howell, 32 St Christopher's Place, W1. Glasses by Ray-Ban.

Far left: Khaki cotton lined double-breasted jacket and matching trousers £99.50, ochre cotton/linen seersucker sweater £23.95. Both from Woodhouse, 99 Oxford Street, W1. 411 Oxford Street, W1; 141 Kensington High Street, W8; 33 Brompton Road, SW3. Glasses by Ray-Ban.



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Photographs by JEANY.

House of Lords

Law Report May 11 1982

Court of Appeal

Probation day centre order invalid

Cullen v Rogers

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook.

[Speeches delivered May 6.]

A crown court placing an offender on probation with consent under section 23A of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 had no power to require the offender to attend a day centre unless the statutory conditions in section 4 applicable to attendance at a "day training centre" as defined were satisfied.

The House of Lords unanimously so decided when dismissing a prosecutor's appeal against a majority decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Mr Justice Thompson and Mr Justice Cantley, Lord Justice Waller dissenting) (7th Times October 10, 1981), who had set aside a decision of the North Tyneside justices that Deborah Rogers was in breach of a condition imposed at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court.

Section 23A provides: "Subject to the provisions of sections 4... a probation order may... require the offender to comply... with such requirements as the court considers necessary for securing the good conduct of the offender or for preventing a repetition by him of the same offence or the commission of other offences."

Section 4 provides: "(1) Where a court makes a probation order, it may... subject to the provisions of this section... a requirement that [the offender] shall... attend at a day training centre specified in the order. (2) A court shall not include such a requirement... unless... (a) it has been notified by the secretary of state that a day training centre exists for persons of the offender's class or description who reside in the petty sessions area in which he resides or will reside; and (b) it is satisfied that arrangements can be made for his attendance at that centre."

"(3) A requirement included in a probation order by virtue of this section shall operate to require the probationer... in accordance with instructions given by the probation officer responsible for his supervision, to attend... at the centre

specified in the order; (b) while attending there to comply with instructions given by, or under the authority of, the person in charge of the centre."

Section 5(1) defines a day training centre as meaning "premises at which persons may be required to attend by a probation order containing a requirement under section 4".

Mr J. Hodgson for the prosecutor, Mr James Chadwin, QC and Mr M. L. Cardridge for the respondent.

LORD BRIDGE, with whose opinion all their Lordships agreed, said that a probation order imposed on the respondent for two years had additional requirements that she was to attend the Northumbria Probation and After Care Day Centre in North Shields as instructed by the probation officer, and during the attendance was to undertake and participate in such activities as the probation officer directed.

She failed to comply and was prosecuted for breach of the order. The crown court remitted the case to the magistrates' court, which rejected her challenge to the attendance requirements. Her appeal to the Divisional Court succeeded.

The certified question of general public importance involved in the decision was: "What was the power contained in section 23A of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 limited by section 4, if at all?" The Act in its consolidating character had to be construed starting point had to be to construe the Act as it stood. Section 4 incorporated (when read with section 48) important provisions which must have been intended to regulate the character of requirements to attend at day training centres generally. The attendance that could be required was limited to 60 days.

The nature of the training, the hours of attendance and the reckoning of the days of attendance were to be the subject of rules made by the secretary of state under section 48, and the person in charge of the centre, with whose instructions the probationer attending the centre would be bound to comply, was to be a person to whose appointment the secretary of state had consented pursuant to

rules made under section 48. Section 4(2) was prohibitory: "A court shall not include such a requirement [ie to attend at a day training centre] unless the existence of the centre had been notified by the secretary of state."

On its true construction, his Lordship had no doubt, section 4 was intended to be comprehensive and to permit a requirement to attend at a day training centre only if the statutory conditions applicable to attendance at a "day training centre", as defined, were satisfied.

That conclusion would be sufficient to dispose of the appeal, but since the decision might expose the necessity for amending legislation, it might be appropriate to add some general observations.

The prohibition against making a probation order unless the necessary requirements were satisfied was very wide, but the power to impose requirements under it had to be subject to some limitation in at least two respects:

(1) a requirement must not introduce such a custodial or other element as would amount in substance to the imposition of a sentence; (2) any discretion conferred on the probation officer pursuant to the terms of the order to regulate a probationer's activities, had itself to be confined within well-defined limits.

It was rightly conceded by counsel for the prosecutor that a court could not, under the guise of a requirement imposed pursuant to section 23A, require a number of hours on a given day to be spent at an institutional establishment and there to comply with instructions of a

wholly unspecified character given by the probation officer would go far beyond the range of such requirements as could properly be imposed under section 23A.

There never was any power to require a probationer attend at a day training centre or any similar institution, however, called, until Parliament expressly conferred that power, subject to appropriate regulation and restriction, first by section 20 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972 and now by section 4 of the 1973 Act.

The certified question was so narrowly framed that a direct answer to it would be misleading. Solicitors Radcliffe & Co far R. F. Kidd & Spoor, Whitely Bay; Gregor, Rowcliffe & Co for Hadaway & Hadaway, North Shields.

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Auction sale exclusion unfair under Act

Southwestern General Property Co Ltd v Marton

Before Mr Justice Croom-Johnson

[Judgment delivered May 6.]

The general conditions of sale excluding liability for misrepresentation in an auction catalogue did not satisfy the test of reasonableness laid down in section 11 of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and were avoided by section 8 of the Act.

His Lordship gave judgment in the Queen's Bench Division for the defendant, a purchaser of property, in an action brought by the plaintiffs, the vendors of the property, which was sold by auction. The defendant rescinded

the contract on the ground of innocent misrepresentation and the plaintiffs claimed damages. Mr Thayne Forbes for the plaintiff, Mr Peter Langas for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON said that the property sold was described in the particulars of sale as building land and it was stated that planning permission had been refused in 1972 because the proposed house was out of character.

Those words represented that the land could be used for building if the house was in character with the existing development. His Lordship found that the representation was false and that the defendant had relied on it.

The conditions of sale in the auction catalogue were sufficient to exclude liability for representations unless the conditions were avoided by section 8 of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977.

The test for the reasonableness of a condition was set out in section 11 of the Act. The words of section 11 were very wide.

In circumstances where the defendant, who was a householder, had attended the auction at short notice and with no time to make full inquiries, the plaintiffs had not satisfied his Lordship that the terms were reasonably included in the contract. They would exclude liability for failure to tell more than part of the facts which were material to the whole contract of sale.

The plaintiffs were unable to rely on the conditions in the auction catalogue and there must be judgment for the defendant.

Solicitors: Crook & Bastian, Shepherd's Bush; Turner & Debenhams, Boreham Wood.

MR JUSTICE PARKER, giving a reserved judgment, held that on the facts, and apart from the rights of the Belgian charterers, the Canadian charterers would be entitled to specific performance against the owners. The existence of the two sister ships was a factor in deciding that the vessel was of specific value to the Canadian charterers.

Subsidy and grant in buying house

Wood v South Western Co-operative Housing Society Ltd

Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Fysh

[Judgment delivered May 4.]

Basic residual subsidy received by a housing association under the Housing Finance Act 1972 was a grant within the meaning of section 2(2) of the Housing Act 1980 and the association could not claim to be within the exception to the right of a secure tenant to buy his home under the 1980 Act.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the South Western Co-operative Housing Association from a decision of Judge Best, sitting in Bridgewater County Court who had ordered that Mr William Wood of 30 Dunkley Road, Bridgewater, Somerset, was entitled to buy the freehold of his house.

MR PETER MILLET, Q.C. and Mr Dirk Jackson for the housing association, Mr Wood in person.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the housing association, which was a company limited by guarantee, had received basic residual subsidy under section 72 of the Housing Finance Act 1972 but Mr Wood had contended that the words "grant" were used to cover all payments from public sources.

The House of Lords in 1974 should not be construed as relating to "basic residual subsidy". His Lordship said that that construction would have meant adding words to the existing "basic residual subsidy" was a phrase used by the draftsman to cover a number of different forms of subsidies.

On looking at the housing statutes it seemed that up to 1974 the word "grant" applied to payments by local authorities and "subsidy" to contributions applied to the monies given by central government to housing associations and from 1974, when "grant" was used to cover all payments from public sources.

The monies whether they were called "subsidies" or "grants" were all public monies. It was illogical to say that prior to 1974 the word "grant" was used to cover all payments from public sources.

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Establishing planning appeal facts

F.A.D. Entertainment Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another Moorchat Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

When appealing against an enforcement notice under section 88(1) (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, it was necessary to establish the

facts relevant to the planning history and use of the premises, and an appellant was therefore required to provide a statement of facts in accordance with section 88(2) of the Act. Mr Justice Stephen Brown held, dismissing two appeals heard together in the Queen's Bench Division in May 7.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the

THE ARTS

Galleries

The painter as performer

Picasso and the Theatre

Burstow Gallery,
Brighton College

The Eye of the Storm

Brighton Polytechnic

George Heming Mason

Stoke-on-Trent City
Museum and Art Gallery

After last year's centenary overkill of exhibitions, you might think there would be precious little left to be said about Picasso. But, as usual, the old devil has the last laugh. His activities were so many and varied his career was so long, that there is always something else to be picked out and illuminated. It was a real inspiration this year for the Brighton Festival to take as one of its themes the relations of Picasso with the theatre. This continuing involvement in theatre, not only painting theatrical subjects very frequently but also, more practically, working as a theatre designer and a dramatist, has not had much attention paid to it recently. But Brighton is now reminding us with rehearsed readings of two of his dramatic writings, *Desire Caught by the Tail* and *The Four Little Girls*, a new ballet for the Ballet Rambert based on Picasso's images (reviewed by John Russell Taylor last week), and a new production for which Picasso designed settings, and an ambitious show, *Picasso and the Theatre*, at the Burstow Gallery of Brighton College until May 30.

In a sense this is primarily a teaching exhibition, stronger on documentation than on original works of art. But the theatre designer's work is always filtered through the interpretations of others, whether of the scene painters who paint his sets and backdrops and of the costumers who make his clothes, or, more subtly, of the performers who wear the clothes and the directors or choreographers in charge of what goes on in the stage. So

recent realizations of classic Picasso designs for new productions such as the London Festival Ballet's 1973 version of *Parade* — are not necessarily inferior (except in some indefinable mystique to the original 1917 front curtain of *Le Train Bleu*). This though painted under Picasso's direct supervision, is by now getting to look decidedly rubbed and faded, and therefore possibly misleading as to the effect intended by Picasso when it was all spanking new and immediate. All these, along with the dancing machines' reconstruction of the 1930 version of *Mercury*, are on show in the Great Hall of Brighton College, to which the Burstow Gallery can be arranged as a costume after seeing the designs. The highly dramatic, especially with the *Train Bleu* costumes, displayed as imaginatively as they have been by Pauline Whitehouse, painted on boards in the poses of the designs. And of course the larger scale of the *Train Bleu* curtain is overwhelming. But it all has much more meaning when we have come to it through the careful and meticulously documented introduction offered by the rest of the exhibition.

Here we have some original designs (many of them fished out of the seemingly infinite bottom drawer of the prospective Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris), including real sketches such as the original sketch for the front curtain of *Parade*, which throws unexpected light on the evolution of this famous design. But the photographs and texts, covering the complete range of Picasso's stage designs would be hard to connect with the later documents and Picasso himself as a performer remind us usefully how much of his art began as performance — as well as how far beyond performance he finally took it.

The other major exhibition in the Brighton Festival is *The Eye of the Storm*, in the gallery of Brighton Polytechnic until May 27. It is drawn from another seemingly limitless bottom drawer, that of the Imperial War Museum, and concerns itself with artists' reactions to the First World War. The first impression is one of almost total unfamiliarity in the War Museum's collec-

tion of material by official war artists there is so much that most of it can rarely be shown except briefly, in special exhibitions staged by the museum itself. The second impression is one of amazed admiration at the extraordinary variety of response and the extraordinary intensity — and that this could come out of something one would suppose to be so constraining as a government-sponsored scheme for recording a war.

One need only lend half an ear to the fuses currently being aired about how the Falklands crisis should be recorded by the media, and whether the Argentines should be represented as human beings, suffering equally from their human losses to see the kinds of problem which must have beset these war artists in the era of the white feather and stoning machines on the streets. As you might expect, the major artists concerned, such as Paul Nash, Spencer and Wyndham Lewis, emerge as, well, major. What is not so much to be expected is the fine showing made by then pillars of the Establishment like Orpen and Tonks, and by now virtually forgotten artists like W. Bernard Adeney, Harold Williamson and Charles Pears. Clearly almost no one could rival with his consciousness grasped by the unbelievable, grinding horror of trench warfare, the mud and the blood, Williamson's *Stretcher Bearers of 1918*, with its body-face-downwards in a flooded shellhole, slightly unregarded by the passing medics, conveys the horror by almost ignoring it. Orpen's *Dead Germans in a Trench* (1917) looks in the face, and is so far removed from Orpen's slick social portraits that one can well believe him marked for life by his war experiences. And, in other cases, one can clearly see such charming, distinctive, but minor artists as John Nash and William Roberts reaching, in these special circumstances, an intensity of feeling and brightness of pictorial organization which they were never to achieve again.

Other artists were able to stand further back without loss of this special intensity. Meninsky's *The Arrival* (of troops at Victoria Station) has a classical pose which places war sub specie æternitatis. Rothstein's *Hull, Belgium*, like Orpen's *The Butte*



Overwhelming scale: Picasso's front curtain for "Le Train Bleu"

de Warlencourt, finds lasting beauty in the midst of devastation. Only very occasionally is the exhilaration of battle shown — as in Sydney Carline's *The Destruction of an Austrian Machine in the Gorge of the Brenne Valley*, where we are conscious mostly of the beauty and romance of flight. As a rule the view is bleak indeed: as often in human history, the artist was a truer indication of the reality than the politician and even the philosopher. There is little so powerful or convincing as the artist's "I have felt".

One could hardly be further from the horrors of war than in the Arcadian dreamland of George Heming Mason, whose faded reputation is revived at Stoke-on-Trent City Museum and Art Gallery (until June 12). And yet Mason saw more of the horrors of war directly than any other Victorian British artist. I can think of during his bohemian youth he was a medical orderly with Garibaldi's army, in which his brother was enlisted, and was close to battles notorious for their bloodiness while tending their

agonizing human consequences. The dreamy tranquillity of his later dusk scenes was, one suspects, a hard-won escape.

Though Mason seems at first glance just a minor local figure, interesting or less interesting according to taste, oddly enough he was in background development one of the most cosmopolitan of all British contemporaries: while in Rome in 1852-53 he got to know not only Leighton, who was to be a lifelong friend, but also Giovanni Costa, later to have a leading figure of the Macchiaioli, or early Italian Impressionists, and Arnold Böcklin, the Swiss Symbolist. Something of both Costa's technique of sketching from nature and Böcklin's haunted atmospheres seems to have gone into Mason's later work, painted when after an unproductive interval following his marriage, Leighton persuaded him to take up serious painting again.

It is these romantic, melancholy, rather other-worldly pieces, such as the Tate's *Harvest Moon*, *Girls Dancing* and *The Evening Hymn* (which vanished in the 1950s), upon which Mason's

reputation rested, while he had one. Towards the end of his not over-long or over-productive life (he died in 1872, at the age of 54), he was quite famous, but his fame did not long survive the new century — partly because there was nothing about his work on which to keep it alive, and partly because he did not really fit conveniently into the context of Victorian art.

For modern spectators, his works distinctiveness and unEnglishness are the most interesting things about it. Some photographs he had taken of costume models for *The Harvest Moon* show how firmly he imposed his own vision on the awkward facts of nature, how subtly his paintings are unified by their pervasively elegant quality, and how little they have to do with life as it was ever lived in the real English countryside. He is never going to look like a very important painter, but he is certainly a lot more remarkable, both in what he was and where he stood for, than many others who have been revived with much more of a flourish.

John Russell Taylor

Interview: Richard Griffiths

Momentum of the month

Richard Griffiths exudes that aura of instantly recognizable success which can only be bestowed by television. The circle of fame has been woven thrice around all 18 stone of him by *Bird of Prey*, the four-part BBC 1 thriller about computerized crime which ends on Thursday. Griffiths plays Henry Jay, an amiable civil servant in a dead-end job who happens to amble into a fiendishly complex plot, the main elements of which are that somebody keeps trying to kill him and everybody else lies to him. Combining, as it does, fascinating electronic hardware, taut plotting and some excellent location filming, it has found a precise niche in the audience's consciousness.

"Cheers, a great performance," called a bunch of businessmen at a neighbouring table when I had lunch with him. Another stylishly collected his autograph — "for the boys." Griffiths takes it all with amused amazement. *Bird of Prey* is just one project among several which are surfacing at the moment, but it is one that has worked. In *Whoops Apocalypse*, the London Weekend comedy show he now realises is a "bit iffy", he played Eshwari, in Lindsay Anderson's new film *Britannia Hospital* he plays a rabidly jolly disc jockey, in Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi* he plays a journalist, and in *Forman's Ragtime* he was a lawyer. He is back on television next month in the *Tyne Tynes* play *The First World War*.

"But unfortunately I'm now out of work. I'm the one that put the unemployment figures back over three fully down his vast expanse of waistcoat."

Griffiths' accent still bears a few traces of his north-eastern origins. His parents were both deaf and dumb, it was in sign language that he learnt his



father's view of acting as being "a career for a man". That was after he had worked at becoming an artist and ended up working for Littlewoods. It was there that his potential was spotted — should he wish to acquire a few O levels he might prove to be a management material. In fact it was the interviews at fine art colleges which put him off fine art and anyway "painters only make it after they're dead." So he went to drama school in Manchester and finally started earning a living in 1969 at the Harrogate Opera House. It was only £7 a week but it started five years of work in rep until he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1974.

"Work took on more significance when I arrived at the RSC but it didn't last long. I was paid off in March 1975. Then came my longest period of unemployment — one year, six months until I got a television, in the first episode of *When the Boat Comes In*."

But he was back at the RSC in 1976, and he stayed until August 1980 when, having been a member of the cast of the company's *Once in a Lifetime*, he found himself in a West End transferred production and unable to be rehired at the start of the RSC's new season.

As it happens he had begun to resent the typecasting anyway. Always the comic character, useful heavy or a Shakespearean lord, he particularly smarted at having always to speak prose — one verse — part of the King of Navarre. Leaving the womb of the RSC thus came as a timely shock to his substantial system. Nevertheless, typecasting does mean you are in work and Griffiths is not one to make the mistake of underestimating the value of his physical presence.

"I remember this chilling story about Trevor Nunn. He met an actor who had just lost four stone in weight and was rather proud of it. Trevor told him he had just

lost 400 per cent of his casting potential. Mind you, I'd lose five stone right now if somebody asked me to do Hamlet."

Henry Jay is not Hamlet, nor was he meant to be. Rather he is J. Alfred Prufrock, as Griffiths has referred to T. S. Eliot's poem in the past. But Henry does dare to reach, to grasp at the strange intrusion into his boring life and not to be deterred by the getting to the bottom of it. The mystique of this intrusion lies in its evocation of the arcane of computers. Henry, for all his ordinariness, is privy to the electronic age's secrets and acts as our stumbling guide to its power, containing our sickly fascination with reminders of its nastiness.

And sure enough Griffiths himself has felt the tacky obsession with the monsters. He regrets having gone up maths and thereby losing the grounding which could have allowed him to understand them. But he does enthusiastically recount the kind of anecdotes and conspiracy theories they inspire in an "average" schoolboy, and undoubtedly evangelistic way.

"It's the mundane world of the career Griffiths is at something of a loss. "I know what I don't want to do but I don't know what I do want to do." For the five years he has been involved with an attempt to get a film of Anne Tyler's novel *Celestial Navigation* off the ground and there is an unspecified major offer in the air. But having been a hugely respected character actor and largely theatrical actor and then finding himself a hugely popular television face, he has left him with an understandably confused air. "It's strange to find myself the flavour of the month." It is to be hoped that human voices do not wake this particular Prufrock lest he drown.

Bryan Appleyard

Concerts

Flavours of Stockhausen's youth

Music Projects

Riverside Studios

While we all wait for the Covent Garden production of Stockhausen's *Donnerstag, 9. März 1945* and his ensemble Music Projects London have nipped in and brought music from the opera to London for the first time. Sunday night's performance was planned to have been a comprehensive sample of the work, with some from each of the three acts, but in the event we had to be content with something rather less.

Hungarian SSO/
Lukacs

Dome, Brighton

A tour of several British centres brought the Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra to the Brighton Festival on Sunday, but without their principal conductor, János Ferencsik, who became ill before travelling here. His place was taken by Erwin Lukacs, the orchestra's second conductor, though the only intimation of this at the Brighton concert was a spoken announcement when the players were already seated.

Alban Berg Quartet

Wigmore Hall

Schoenberg's fourth quartet was the expansive centre-piece of the Alban Berg Quartet's polished recital on Sunday. Although written in 1936, in the wake of Bartok's distilled, seminal essays in the medium, it bears the marks of Schoenberg's essential conservatism. For all its adherence to serial procedures, it has a standard classical four-movement plan and even a vague tonal feeling. And, despite its

Debuts

London

Timothy Hugh's recital with Robert Lockhart began with an accurate and sensitively phrased account of Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73; his tone, impeccably produced, poured forth in an unending stream though with just a hint of blandness. The performance of Britten's Suite No. 1 in G for solo cello was introverted yet highly charged, but it was the closing E major Sonata of Brahms that offered the variety of colour lacking earlier. Here, as throughout, Mr Hugh was fearless in the face of all technical demands; the excitement of risk-taking came only in Mr Lockhart's

The composer decided at short notice that the finale, "Vision", had to be drawn for correction, and it clearly proved impossible to excerpt anything from the middle act, a kind of trumpet concerto in which the soloist, representing the Archangel Michael, makes a musical tour of the planet. What was left was "Examination", which is the principal scene of the first act, and "Michael's Greeting", a sombre and immense fanfare devised to alert and prepare the audience for the solemn spectacle to come.

To judge *Donnerstag* from this evidence would obvi-

ously be like judging *Sixty-Nine* from the hero's dialogue with the Wanderer, or the Rhine journey music. More realistically, we were confronted with two independent works, each designed by Stockhausen to function by itself as well as to sustain a particular flavour within the whole framework of his seven-opera cycle.

In "Examination" the flavour is that of youth, not only Michael's but more particularly Stockhausen's. The musical atmosphere is set by a solo piano, which plays almost continuously and which surely recalls the composer's experience as a

how-wow" concerto his bite was as strong as his bark, with inflammatory double octaves at speed matched by an inner musicality of phrasing, not least in the central section of the slow movement, and an avoidance of emotional indulgence.

Loud acclaim brought him back to play a grateful encore in the "December" Waltz from Tchaikovsky's keyboard calendar, *The Seasons*, and he did not disdain to let the orchestra's ensemble pianist for the small but significant keyboard element in the suite from Stravinsky's *The Firebird*. Here the playing was strong on instrumental colour, as in the glittering "Firebird's

Andante not merely warm, but introspective. It might have seemed regressive to end with Schumann's A major Quartet, Op. 41 No. 3, even in this sentimental music the quartet penetrated beneath superficial elegance to expose all its urgent restlessness. A finely calculated rate made the slow movement's emotion all the more real, while the dramatic playing of the variations elevated the work, composed in 1842, the *annus mirabilis* of Schumann's chamber output, from the salon to the heart.

Stephen Pettitt

was impetuous, uncompromising, monopolizing the attention: a performance such as one imagines the composer himself might have given. There was no noisy Farewell and a crashing Return, but marked by a number of well-considered features, such as the neatly placed chords at the opening of the sonata. Playing on a very fine double bass made by Carlo Testore in 1695, James Vandemark produced a sound that was remarkable for its beauty of tone and absence of buzz. In sonatas by Henry Eccles and Schubert (the "Arpeggione") he was alive to every nuance of phrasing and expression. Regrettably as a solo instrument the bass is simply not in the business of subtlety and finesse. Mr

Vandemark comes nearer than I would have thought possible to bringing it off but it must be in the showpiece repertoire that a "double bass virtuoso" (as he is billed) comes into his own.

For that reason I was sorry to have to miss what promised to be a lively second half in order to catch at least part of Michael Blackmore's piano recital. I heard a forceful, strongly motivated interpretation of Schumann's *Carnaval* which drew caution to the winds and took an occasional tumble as a result. It was a performance not lacking in moments of poetry but making its considerable impact by sheer dynamism.

Barry Millington

Television
Matters
in mind

Human Brain (BBC 2) wanted to have it both ways, by combining mystery and scientific realism, the unexplained with the too readily explicable. As the credits rolled, we saw something that looked like a rumpled piece of old velvet, bathed in blue and green light: this was the Gothic brain, eerie, labyrinthine, with perhaps a monster at its centre. And then, in one of the most horrific sights of the week, we saw a surgeon delving into someone's head. The cranial juices swirled like water in a pit. The blood and the brains resembled some surrealist version of strawberries and cream.

These disparate images neatly summarized the basic question which the programme posed: is the brain a mysterious entity over-ruled by a shadowy "mind" which represents "the self", or is it a complicated bundle of nerves and tissues which in its workings is the mind and the self? It is an old argument which has moved to a new context: the transcendentalists line up on one side, the behaviourists on the other.

The human focus of last night's investigation was Vicki, an American woman who because of severe epilepsy had had the hemispheres of her brain surgically divided. As a result, her right and left hemispheres have a certain degree of independence from each other, picking separate dresses out of the wardrobe at the same time; the developed left hemisphere of the brain will try to explain to itself what the relatively undeveloped right hemisphere is trying to do.

By describing things in this way I have, of course, already fallen into a trap of which the programme itself was a victim. By treating the brain as the subject of an active verb, I am lending it a separate identity; which it may not in fact have. Throughout the programme, active verbs and personalized metaphors were used to explain the brain's behaviour: a "dominant" hemisphere "takes over" from a "subservient" one, and so on. Such language suggests that the brain is independent and self-willed, thus prejudging the question which the programme wanted to pose.

To put it simply, has Vicki two brains and therefore two minds — or is there a single mind which yokes the heterogeneous brains together and unites them in a single self?

By turning the brain into a character, out of Poe or at least Wells, and by giving it more irreconcilable conflicts than a tragic hero, it was natural that *Human Brain* should by the end have implicitly adopted a materialistic stance and asserted that the brain is the mind. But it offered very little evidence to support its theory. As always with programmes of this kind, what was really demonstrated was the inability of scientists to "know" anything at all with certainty. *Human Brain* left my little brain bewildered. It raised questions which could not be answered, and offered explanations which could not substantiate.

Peter Ackroyd

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Alexander Solzhenitsyn surveys the world and issues a sombre warning on the advance of communism

Why can't the West see this is no time to smile?

Switch on a television set in the West, leaf through any magazine or newspaper, and all you will see is bright smiles, from government leaders down to the man in the street.

Each day marks a shrinking of the island that is the western world: it is under the threat of missiles, rocked by the devilish spiral of inflation, with each of its peaceful steps shaken by bomb explosions. The world is rolling joyfully towards an abyss but the West keeps smiling. And these smiles are a habit learned in the earliest youthful years to conform with the West's social code.

American youth is expected always to respond "OK", to amuse itself all the time. Whoever formulates doubts or evinces concern is promptly called a misfit or vicious. The ferocious desire to appear happy at all times humiliates and undermines humanity.

As to us, in the East, the inertia of accumulated suffering over decades had freed us of that falsely joyful air. In the face of the camera, our faces remain the way they are in real life — downcast.

At every moment, at least one country somewhere is falling under the tooth of totalitarianism. But without understanding its horrible nature, without trying to roll it back, all that one does is send to those countries television crews to shoot films of the blood, sweat and tears to offer us afterwards a show in our comfortable sitting rooms.

Television producers — like the Dutch in El Salvador — are sending their cameramen not to elucidate the truth in all its breadth or pin down the threat hanging over their own civilisation, but — as American networks did in Vietnam — to show in a

tendentious and unilateral manner that one must not support the governments which are on the losing side and stuffed with faults anyway.

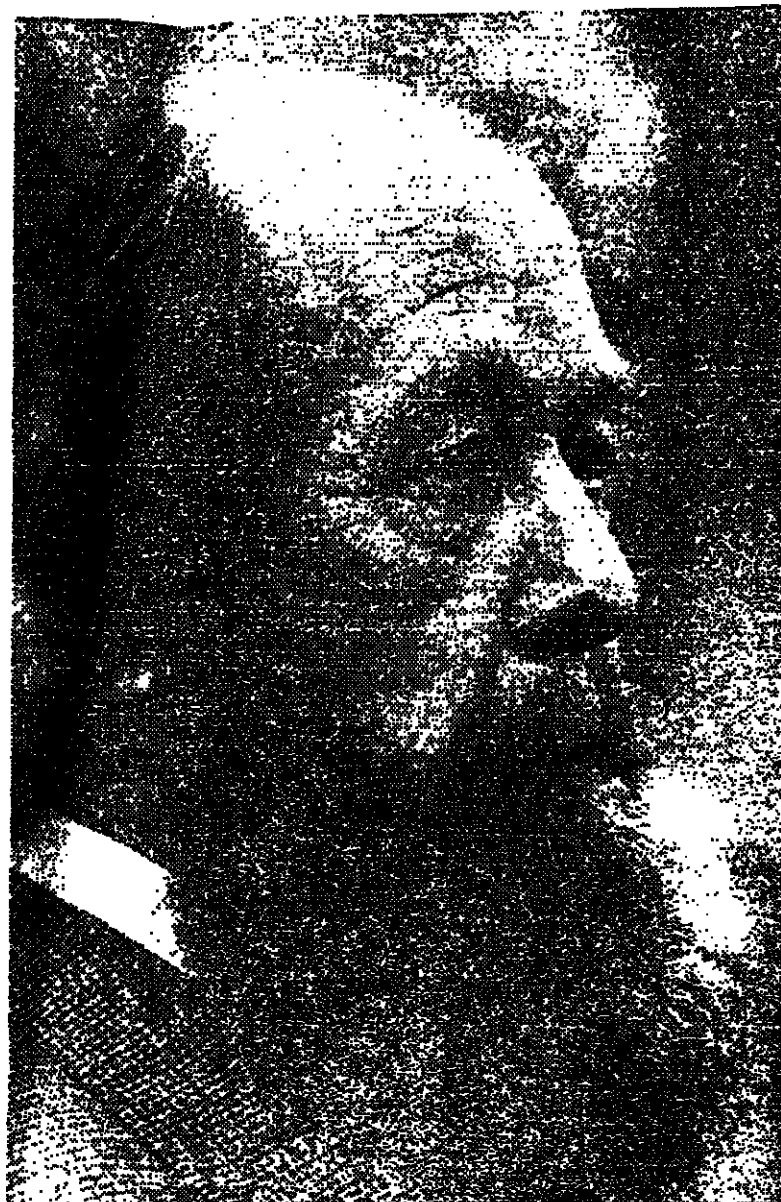
Why don't they also send cameramen to Nicaragua to shoot film of the Sandinista pressures against Indians? But they are not allowed to do so.

Easily resigned to the situation, they go to those countries which are accessible. There, they portray each error and slightest mishap as a scandal.

One must indeed feel sorry for these governments — and 40 of them have already been swallowed — which are destined to become victims of the communists: sapped by totalitarian cliques, confronted with terror, they have to tread the path of refined democracy or face accusations that it is they and not the terrorists who are to be blamed. These accusations are made by news media of the western world which, instead of acting like allies of those countries, is pushing them overboard into the water to let them drown.

Today, communism's triumphant advance appears with special clarity in Central America, where it has spread without resistance Cuba (and then, through Cuba's intervention, Angola and Ethiopia), after having supplied the Sandinistas with money and American moral support, one may be given permission to ask other countries — Honduras and Guatemala for example — to undertake honourable negotiations with cheaters.

Thus, row after row, American pacifists are rising and marshalling their troops once again, not feeling on their shoulders the weight of Indo-China which has been so stupidly lost: no interference please, above all, don't allow a single American adviser to



Solzhenitsyn: what if Moscow combines with Peking?

take a gun into the jungle! It is too early to intervene! And in this way they will hold back their government, prevent it from acting, and will retreat until, one day soon, the communists will reach the boundary of Texas.

And I can already hear their shouts: "Too late now. We cannot mobilize American youth any more. We must surrender!"

What a stroke of luck it would have been for France and Britain if there were television crews operating in 1918! Trotsky would certainly not have allowed them to

take films of his army. Their cameras would never have caught him busy crushing the inhabitants of Jaroslavl or executing without trial workers multiplying in the lijevsk and Volkovsk factories.

Rather the film crews would have rushed to Denikine and Koltchak (two leading white army commanders during the Russian civil war), and how passionately would they have brought to evidence their least anti-democratic action. Their reporting would have promptly appeared Western consciences by showing them that it was neces-

ary not to help, but to betray, their war allies.

For years the communist regime has spared no effort to hide from our people (and the West) the true march of events in the years 1917-1922. It has succeeded completely. In the Soviet Union people know better the history of the early nineteenth century than the twentieth century.

This atmosphere of profound incomprehension surrounding our revolution explains the success in the United States of a film like *Reds*. Soon, Soviet film director Bondartshouk will exercise his talent on the same or better transfer — as he has promised — the hesitant and defenceless crowd massed in front of the Winter Palace into an irresistible attack of 10,000 soldiers who were not there in 1917.

The West wrongly believes that the present-day Soviet Union is a continuation of ancient Russia, while in fact the communists are eroding and destroying it. Observers have failed to see the complete rupture with all religious, cultural and national traditions and the physical extermination of millions of those who embodied them. In the 1920s the name of Russia was pronounced only with contempt or hatred, and even sooner, it will be diminished by one half and dissolve itself and almost vanish from the face of the earth. And this development appears irreversible.

In this respect how can one fail to admire the courage of a Carillo and a Berlinguer. They are "opposed" to the Soviet socialist model. As if Korea, China and Cuba had produced another model. There have been some 40 cases like that, and all of them apparently were not sufficiently Marxist.

Let the Eurocommunists sacrifice an additional 15 million people, build two more socialist models which will be criticised, alas, will find insufficiently

Marxist. (Is not the communist Manifesto clear enough about the nature of Marxism?) What is the difference of the two novel communist models? For the Italian communists the October coup d'état, 65 years later, has stopped being the guiding spirit. For the Spaniards, it still remains so.

This coup was carried out by gangsters who from the early Leninist days deprived our people of all their rights and later seized the peasants' land (though according to the revolutionary fable they gave land to the peasants). They have turned a wealthy country into a hungry and miserable country by exterminating tens of millions of peasants. If Carillo and Berlinguer were honest they would have long cursed the October coup and erased from their party the dishonest communist label.

I would like to tell western youth, aware of the vices of their countries' social systems but also of the true nature of communism, and who are honestly searching for a "third path", to build their future. I would like to tell them that I have found a number of failings in the Western system, above all of monopolies. This system has lost some of its features that characterize genuine and responsible freedom as it was originally conceived: the thirst for riches and pleasure has gone beyond any ethical measure. Western governments are mostly run not by those who have elected them but by occult forces. Senseless capitalists are feeding with their own hands the communist monster for their and the whole world's ruin.

In the future it will be our task to determine a third, fourth or perhaps fifth road and aim at strengthening spiritual foundations of society, disregarding unsavoury economic combinations.

Yet present-day dangers have become so pressing that we do not have enough time left to determine the new directions. The conquering mouth of the second road is wide open to tear off our head here and now. One has to find time to beat it back without yielding to fear.

Things will be even more dangerous if Soviet communists make peace with the Chinese. Warning lights can already be seen. If it came to pass, nothing would stand in their way.

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A word that still makes waves

This appears to be a good time to think about gunboat diplomacy. Thanks to television, gunboats seem unreal toys, even when people are being killed. The sort of linguistic homily that comes to mind is a meditation about Palmerston's admirable use of the minimum force to achieve his ends, in contrast with the extravagant means of Bismarck, Napoleon III and the Tsar to achieve their ends, whether successful or unsuccessful.

However, it is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. It is daft to plot an article in one's mind before verifying one's references. The facts bear no relation to the proposed homily.

For one thing, in the classic example of gunboat diplomacy, when Don Pacifico had his house ransacked by an Athenian crowd, and Palmerston made his stirring but irrelevant declaration to the House of Commons, "Civis Romanus Sumus it was not a gunboat that he sent but the entire British fleet to blockade Greece. It was an example of speaking softly (well, for nearly five hours) and carrying a bloody great stick.

It is not the image that the phrase gunboat diplomacy brings to mind today, of a

It is the authority of the White Ensign that subdues the riot, not the size of the gun

trim little ship of the Royal Navy with a single gun mounted forward, slipping into port or up the river and introducing instant calm among the turbulent masses, in the same way that a good collie introduces instant authority into a moor of sheep.

Gunboats have been doing that sort of thing for the Navy for a while. "Pitt's minister," Lord Auckland, conveyed the message exactly in a letter of 1793, when he wrote: "The enemy were masters of the shore, and entirely commanded it by their gunboats." And Nelson wrote in a dispatch: "The Spaniards having sent out a great number of Mortar Launches, I immediately ordered the 'Pitt' to open fire on them. Linguistically, 'a great many' seems too many gunboats.

No doubt when you are at sea with the real thing, the more gunboats on your side the better. But in the phrase gunboat diplomacy the fewer and smaller the better. It is the authority of the White Ensign that subdues the riot, not the size of the gun.

Although associated with Palmerston's chauvinistic and successful foreign policy, gunboat diplomacy came into the language late and across the Atlantic. The first example found in the *Oxford English Dictionary* comes from the proceedings of the US Naval Institute in 1927: "It has been said that the days of gunboat diplomacy in China are over." This suggests that the idea we have of gunboat diplomacy is all wrong. It is not the White Ensign fluttering from a ship that subdues the riot, but the Stars and Stripes streaming down the Yangtze with John Wayne.

Subsequent citations in the OED tend to deplore gunboat diplomacy or congratulate us that it has long and properly disappeared. But the phrase at least does a useful job in the language, in spite of its mysterious origins.

Philip Howard

How all council tenants can become instant owners

by John Maples and Peter Luff

Seven million families live in council houses and most of them would rather not. Most tenants are deeply dissatisfied and, despite recent attempts to improve matters, totally immobile, as they discover when they try to move to another housing authority in another part of the country.

The system itself is inefficient, enormously expensive and results in poor use of the housing stock. One third of the population is condemned to remain permanent tenants of the State, denied the opportunity of owning their own homes.

When public rented housing was first provided in this country it fulfilled a clear social need; now, however, it has degenerated into a highly inefficient nationalized industry. The time has come for denationalization.

Council housing finance has long been an area of political controversy, and that controversy shows no sign of abating now. Michael Heseltine's policy of selling at a 50 per cent discount has been greeted enthusiastically by those who stand to gain, but has also met considerable political opposition. The Labour Party is ready to stop further sales, and has suggested it will freeze rents for at least a year if it is returned to power. So it is that a basic social need has become a political football.

One prominent Conservative learnt for himself that public involvement in the provision of housing needed to be put on a more rational basis. As Environment Sec-

retary, Peter Walker sold council houses for a 30 per cent discount and launched a massive publicity campaign.

The very low percentage of the stock actually sold came as a disappointment to him, so in 1975 he worked out an alternative policy that could liberate the tenants of the State and bring substantial financial benefits to the whole population. This alternative policy should be implemented without delay.

On a specified day the full ownership of all council houses should be transferred to their existing tenants.

They would not be given away, but rather the rent payments would now be treated as mortgage payments. Those who have paid council rents for 30 years or more would be told that they now owned their houses outright and that no further payments would be due. The rest would be told that they will have to pay their "rent" at its present level until they have paid rent for a total of 30 years. Those who had been council tenants for, say, 10 years, would therefore have to pay for a further 20 years. The payments due would be capitalised as a mortgage which would have to be repaid if the house were sold.

This fast, massive and irreversible transfer to private ownership would bring with it enormous social and economic benefits.

Britain would no longer be a two-nation country, divided between those who own their own homes and those who do not. Overnight almost nine

out of ten families would own their own homes. The ugly social tensions between council and private estates would disappear. The tenants themselves would be freed from petty regulations and restrictions and would be able to take a far greater interest in their homes. The dream of building a property-owning democracy would be fulfilled overnight. A more even distribution of wealth would mean a giant step towards equality of opportunity. A real social revolution would take place.

The economic advantages are rather more surprising. To understand them we need to look at the details of the way this new idea would work.

The new owners would be responsible for repairs and maintenance. Much of this they would be able to do themselves more quickly and more cheaply than local authorities, whose maintenance costs have doubled in the last ten years. Naturally, special arrangements will have to be made for major maintenance of large multi-unit and high-rise developments. Similarly those who become the owners of sub-standard property should receive an undertaking that the local authority will bring the property up to standard; we suggest, however, that the owner should be offered a cash grant to do the work himself.

Housing bureaucracies will

be wound up, so management costs — £632m in 1980 — will cease altogether. The only exception will be the provision of a few items such as lifts and caretakers, but there is no reason why the new owners should not take over this responsibility, for which they would be charged correspondingly lower mortgage payments. Where necessary, assistance and advice should be given in the setting-up of co-operative management schemes. It is imperative that the expensive administration of council housing should be brought to an end. In the last 10 years management costs have risen even faster in real terms than maintenance — some two and half times. As

mortgages will still have to be collected we suggest handing this over to the private sector and allowing these contractors a small commission for their services. Of course those who cannot afford their housing payments should continue to receive the equivalent of rent rebates and supplementary benefit. As more and more of the population own their own homes outright, this obligation will diminish.

Local authorities will be relieved of a great burden of work, and will be able to devote their attention to those in genuine need. They should be able to provide a far better service to the most unfortunate members of our society.

Taking all these continuing obligations together, much the same level of expenditure would be needed as is presently spent on rebates and supplementary benefits. There are, however, dramatic benefits to the taxpayer.

At present rents actually paid by tenants only cover 26 per cent of costs before debt service. They make no contribution whatsoever to paying for new houses. The trends that have been established cannot now be reversed, so it really is wishful thinking to believe that rents will ever contribute to debt service or capital expenditure.

The table demonstrates the position vividly. This is a "before and after" view of the Housing Revenue Account, adjusted to show the effects of including

	1980	After Transfer
Rent, Mortgage Payments	2,328	2,142
Rent Rebates	250	478
Supplementary Benefits	472	419
Management Maintenance	476	53
Other Costs	90	0
Collection Cost	0	109
Contribution to Debt Service & New Construction	-553	+348



A council estate in South Wales; overnight, rents could turn into mortgage payments and pride in ownership lead to improvements — at no cost to the public

Where Orwell would have been down and in

What would George Orwell, patriot and libertarian, have made of our Falklands predicament? Professor Bernard Crick, whose monumental biography of Orwell appears in paperback at the end of the month, is convinced that he would not have been numbered among the pacifist Left.

Orwell's abhorrence of totalitarianism and repression of the Argentine variety may be taken for granted, Crick feels. "Although he was anti-imperialist he would not have been a handover man in this conflict. Orwell's prime concern would have been to protect the real interest of the islanders — to achieve a solution by which they could live decently under some form of civil government".

In a timely contribution to the present crisis, Penguin are also reissuing three Orwell essays commissioned in 1940 as part of an effort to defeat left-wing attitudes to the Second World War. Crick, who has written a new introduction to *The Lion and the Unicorn*, told PHS that the essays sum up the thinking of the Tribune Old Left — a perspective far removed from that of Ben-

Bully laughs

Some shallower insights into the Argentine national character than those we had from V. S.

Naipaul may be drawn from the jokes they tell about themselves. "The Brazilians call us the French of the Americas", is one favourite saying. In fact the Argentine character derives from two main racial constituents — colonial Spanish and immigrant southern Italians.

One story goes that an Argentine ambassador in Washington was paying his respects to a recent American president, who amiably confessed his uncertainty whether Argentina was on the left or the right of the map. "Just keep going south, Mr President", the ambassador said, "and the first white nation you come to is us."

"Italians are impossible and they only eat spaghetti", the Argentines say. "Argentines are what you get when you feed Italians on good red meat."

Finally two Argentines were watching Argentina play Italy in Rome. "Have you noticed an incredible thing?" one Argentine asked the other. "All the Italian players have Argentine names."

U-phemisms

I have been politely but devastatingly reproved for my impudent suggestion that the upper classes behave improperly by flaunting invitation cards on their mantelpieces. Alice Hall writes from Herefordshire to tell me that the upper classes stick their invitations into the frames of the looking glasses above their chimneys. The upper classes she says, drawing on Mitford, do not have mirrors or mantelpieces.

THE TIMES DIARY



In Madrid on May 20 Sotheby's will be selling some rather distasteful items — six heads of slaughtered bulls, and a fragment of a jacket in which a matador was gored to death in 1894. There is also the ominous named and now slightly tattered suit of lights which belonged to

Moreover, she adds, the upper classes do not care. It is only the middle classes, having read Dehret's *Etiquette*, who take to hiding their invitations. As for herself, she says, she is so non-U and middle class that her invitations mostly come by telephone.

The obituary of Cardinal Cody in the Catholic Herald said: "He nevertheless commanded enormous support from the Middle American Roman Catholic congregation and more especially from the black community, who recognized the great efforts he had made on their behalf, particularly in the desecration of Catholic schools."

Madman theory

Vitaly Kobish, the Soviet Union's senior press representative at the United Nations in New York, says he seriously believes Americans are mad. Kobish complains in the

the late Antonio Bienvenida, who met his unlamented match in "the bullfight of the century" at Jaen in June 1971.

Among other curiosities to be auctioned in the Spanish capital on the feast of San Isidro, the height of the bullfighting season, is a picture of a white bull tossing a bullfighter which Sotheby's, capturing the spirit of the thing, describe as "somewhat gruesome".

Soviet press that it now costs him 15 dollars to park his car in New York, and the rent of his apartment has gone through the roof.

It is a familiar theme for Kobish. When he was in London as correspondent for *Izvestia* between 1968 and 1971 he moaned that the rent for his flat in St John's Wood Park was much too high, and spent considerable time looking for something cheaper which would satisfy him — without success.

Victory for women

My mention in February of a House of Commons reunion of the wartime Y service brought an embarrassing number of secret servicemen out of the woodwork. They had not been invited to the affair which was for top brass only. It also brought one of those not infrequent accusations of sexism from a reader who felt that I had implied that Y's work of intercepting and decoding

enemy messages had been a male preserve.

Discreetly, therefore, I now pass the intelligence that the first reunion of the WRNS Y service is to be at the Victory Services Club on June 5. At least 60 women intercept telegraphists are expected to attend.

Impromptu

At a dinner last week for Dirk Mudge, chairman of the Namibian council of ministers, the purely African was continually prompted, while speaking, by Billy Marais, his public relations man. It happened so frequently that Nicholas Winterston, the MP who was presiding, had to ask Marais to desist.

Mudge, whose Democratic Turnhalle Alliance must be the world's only party taking its name from a drill hall, tried hard to put over a sincere line about East German gaining hold of southern Africa, and so help save his moderate government.

Among those attending, Terry Duffy, the president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, was quite won over by Mudge's remarks, and promised to support him in the TUC international committee.

I'm for capital punishment; at any rate for disloyal newsmen...



The loss of HMS Sheffield struck a chord of sympathy in Warsaw. A bunch of white carnations with a ribbon and an immaculately lettered placard bearing the ship's name appeared outside the British embassy there last week.

Foot and Francois

Michael Foot attended the launch last night of Denis MacShane's biography of Francois Mitterrand, published speedily by Quartet Books to coincide with the anniversary of the durable French socialist's election victory. MacShane thinks Foot should

pick up a tip or two from his French counterpart's career. "The two men have a lot in common", MacShane tells me. "They are both bibliophiles. Mitterrand has written 10 books himself, which makes him a lot easier to read than the lessons Foot should learn from Mitterrand are that you have to stand by your political principles, but that you must keep your party as broadly based as possible."

MacShane, a former president of the National Union of Journalists who now works as a researcher for the International Metalworkers' Federation, in Geneva, says the British Labour Party is the most insular socialist organization in the world. He says he has written his book "to make French politics accessible to the British Left". I am sure Michael Foot will read it, but that few of his followers will.

It was called the Bun and Milk Club when it became a temperance club where, although snooker and alcohol cards were allowed, all disuse at the end of the 1930s. It has now been converted into flats by a local housing association, and reopened by the mayor of Barnsley, Councillor Jack Wake, who delivered milk to a club as a boy.

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STARTING OVER

President Reagan has taken a very important step in outlining his approach to new negotiations with the Soviet Union on strategic arms control, and announcing that these negotiations are to start before the end of June. He came into office extremely critical of Salt II, which remains unratified though observed in practice, and very sceptical of all further negotiations on arms control, at any rate until America was in a stronger position. He gradually found this position untenable. Allies and adversaries were profoundly unsettled, and his own public began to worry too. The strategic arms race between the super powers is just too big, dangerous and expensive to be left wholly unconstrained. But even after this message began to sink in his Administration remained very divided on the subject, with some strong groups arguing that if any negotiating proposals were to be made they should be designed for certain rejection by the Russians.

Fortunately Mr Reagan has not listened to these groups. The proposals which his negotiators will take to the talks, now called Start (Strategic Arms reduction talks), will not be immediately accepted by the Russians but they do provide a realistic starting point for negotiation. They envisage two phases. In the first, the number of warheads on each side would be reduced to equal ceilings, with not more than half based on land. In the second phase the "throw weight" or carrying capacity of missiles would

also be reduced to equal levels.

This approach has a number of advantages. In the first place, unlike the deep cuts proposed in 1977 it looks reasonably fair in that the Americans would have to dispose of more warheads than the Russians while the Russians would have to dispose of more launchers. Secondly, it prevents over-dependence on land-based missiles, the vulnerability of which has been a major issue in the United States. (Sea-based systems cannot be destroyed in a first strike, so they reduce the temptation to attempt one.) Thirdly, it puts warheads rather than missiles in the centre of the negotiations, which is logical in so far as it is the warheads that do the damage.

Nevertheless, there remain formidable difficulties. Mr Reagan is determined to press hard for adequate verification measures, but it is much harder to count warheads than missiles. Satellites can photograph silos, and can usually tell how many missiles are in them, but they cannot count the warheads packed inside. The assumption so far has been that any missile tested with a given number of warheads will carry that number for the rest of its life, but this is a fairly flimsy assumption. Almost certainly, therefore, Mr Reagan's team will be pressing for on-site inspection, which the Russians have always rejected in the past. Another very big problem is

to work out a package which makes military sense. Of course, the value of arms control negotiations is not only military. It lies also in the hope that arms control will bring elements of coherence, restraint and mutual understanding to relations between the super powers. But if it is to do this it must be based on military logic, and this has become increasingly difficult. New weaponry such as the cruise missile and lasers cut across all established categories. New threats to command and control systems add greatly to mutual insecurity. New developments in anti-missile systems are also cutting away at the assumptions behind the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972.

More important still, perhaps, as a possible criticism of Mr Reagan's approach, numbers are not the main ingredient of security. Indeed, it is possible to imagine some kinds of deep cuts which would leave both sides in less secure and less predictable situations. What is needed is to bring under control a mixture of weaponry designed to stop either side gaining significant advantage over the other. This cannot be done solely by reducing long-range missiles and warheads. The American Administration has long accepted the essential link between Start and the Geneva negotiations on theatre nuclear forces in Europe, which are to resume this month. At some point it may have to spread the net still wider. "Start" is only a start, but a good one.

HOW TO LOSE JOBS ON THE RAILWAYS

The future of the railway system in this country may well be much influenced by the response of the Aslef (Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen) executive tomorrow to the McCarthy report on flexible rostering for train drivers. The bitter dispute between British Rail and Aslef goes back to last summer. After the Railway Staff National Tribunal, under the chairmanship of Lord McCarthy, had recommended that the railwaymen should receive a rise of three per cent more than British Rail was offering, the board stated that this could be paid only if it was financed by extra productivity.

Two agreements were then negotiated: one on the extra pay, the other a declaration of intent on productivity. While two of the three rail unions proceeded to negotiate a substantive agreement on productivity, Aslef maintained that it was committed only to talk and that the pay award did not depend upon a productivity settlement. This was the reason for the six week rail strike at the beginning of this year. It was ended on the basis of the report of a committee of inquiry, also under the chairmanship of Lord McCarthy,

that the three per cent should be paid immediately while productivity talks should be conducted through the industry's established negotiating machinery.

As the Railway Staff National Tribunal is the industry's final court of appeal, this meant that the ultimate decision was simply being transferred to Lord McCarthy in a different hat. As he had twice declined to make a pay award conditional upon extra productivity, it was widely assumed that he would once again refuse to insist upon flexible rostering. But the tribunal report, which was published last Friday, was more favourable to British Rail than had been expected. It endorsed the system of flexible rostering, recommended that the eight-hour day should no longer be regarded as sacrosanct, and offered thirteen safeguards to allay union anxieties.

The NUR yesterday confirmed its acceptance of flexible rostering. But to all intents and purposes it speaks only for the train guards; it includes only a very small percentage of the drivers in its membership. They mostly belong to Aslef, for whom the issue has become not only a matter of importance in itself but a symbolic trial of

strength with British Rail. Mr Ray Buckton and his members will not easily be persuaded to modify their stand.

Yet it matters a great deal for the future of the railway system that they should. What is at stake is much more than an immediate saving of some £15m a year. There is a strategic choice between a railway system that is equipped to compete boldly for a higher share of an expanding market for travel and freight in the years ahead, and a system that is forced to contract because its employees are not prepared to operate it on an efficient basis.

The refusal to adopt flexible rostering is only one of a series of restrictive practices, founded on outmoded conditions, which inhibit a more positive approach. In the short run these practices may save some jobs — though how many, and for how long, must be very doubtful if British Rail is forced to make other economies to meet a higher wage bill. In the longer run a restrictive approach will cost far more because the country will be able to afford only a minimal rail system if the unions make it impossible to run anything more ambitious on economic terms.

PROTECTING PRISONERS' RIGHTS

It is, apparently, anxiety to be seen to respect the Geneva Convention that has led the British Government to adopt a rather uncooperative attitude to the Swedish request for an opportunity to question Captain Arvid Astiz, an Argentine Marine captured on South Georgia, in connection with his alleged role in the arrest and subsequent disappearance of a seventeen-year-old Swedish girl in Buenos Aires in 1977.

The British response has been to tell the Swedes that Britain is going to hand over Captain Astiz to the International Red Cross, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. In fact nothing in the Geneva Convention specifically forbids Britain to enable Swedish representatives to meet Captain Astiz while he is still in British custody. But what it does say is that "every prisoner of war, when questioned on the subject, is bound to give only his surname, first names and rank, date of birth, and army, regimental, personal or serial number, or failing this, equivalent information". It also says that "no physical or mental torture, nor any other

form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatsoever", and that those who refuse to answer may not "be threatened, insulted, or exposed to any unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind".

It would, therefore, be Britain's responsibility to see that Captain Astiz was not under pressure to answer any questions that the Swedes might put to him, and it seems fairly unlikely that he would voluntarily provide them with information not already available about the circumstances of Miss Dagmar Hagelin's disappearance. (He is alleged to have shot and wounded her at the time of her arrest.) The Swedes acknowledge that, but feel they should nonetheless be given the opportunity to ask him, since there is intense public interest in the case in Sweden, and they want to leave no stone unturned.

It is part of Britain's case in the present conflict that she is upholding democratic and civilized standards against a ruthless military dictatorship, and therefore our natural

instinct is to want to help the Swedes as far as we can. But it is of overriding importance not to appear to be doing this at the expense of prisoners' rights, and subjecting a prisoner to interrogation by third parties would be uncomfortably close, at least to doing that. A reasonable compromise might be to agree to have any questions the Swedes wish to ask Captain Astiz put to him by a British officer, while making it clear he would be under no obligation to answer them.

The same consideration should incite the Government to be much more open than it has been so far about the circumstances in which an Argentine prisoner met his death on South Georgia after the recapture of the island. Last week the report of the Board of Inquiry on this incident was said by the Ministry of Defence to be "on its way back to Britain". By what method of transmission it is coming has not been made clear, but the sooner at least the gist of it is made public the better. In this conflict Britain must not only have clean hands, but clearly be seen to have clean hands.

have to make paternalistic decisions about the use of drugs and surgery. Society must set the rules for a specific, valid and reversible method of protection against pregnancy makes the logic of humane management more, not less, difficult.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE DEYS,
PETER DIGGORY,
MALCOLM POTTS,
10 Campden Hill Square, W8,
May 2.

Contraceptive ban

From Dr Caroline Deys & others
Sir, Over the past 20 years 10 million women have used the injectable contraceptive Depoprovera. Currently, 1.25 million are using the method, half of whom live in developed countries, such as Sweden and New Zealand, and no deaths have been attributed to its use. Its clinical record is better than that of oral contraceptives at a comparable state of development. In our experience there is considerable demand for

Depoprovera in Britain. For some groups, such as older women, it could well be the method of choice.

For the first time ever, a carefully considered recommendation of the Committee on the Safety of Medicines has been over-ruled. This seems to have been done because it was felt the technique could be misused in the management of mentally handicapped people. All aspects of the health care of such people involve painful ethical problems. Inevitably, guardians and doctors

First priority on juvenile crime

From Lady Wagner
Sir, The article by Frances Gibb in the Times last Wednesday (May 5) about Television South-West's forthcoming series on borstal treatment quotes the view of Mr David Thompson, governor of Portland borstal, that borstal should be used more as a first, and not a last, resort.

May we make a plea for more attention to be paid to the need for preventive measures, rather than for the emphasis to be placed on attempts to increase the effectiveness of punishment? Clearly, if two out of three borstal boys go back to borstal the treatment is not working well enough at present. But, as the article suggested, this must in part be because most boys leaving borstal return to the same damaging environment from which they came.

The only way that this vicious circle is going to be broken is for more money to be spent alleviating the effects of broken homes, unemployment and the other root causes of insecurity, before young people ever reach the stage where their behaviour could make borstal a possibility for them. Prevention is better than cure.

While we well understand the problems which the staff in borstals face when dealing with these deeply disturbed young people, we feel that a custodial sentence must be seen as a last resort. The first resort should be prevention. But the agencies which do a lot of work in the inner cities, where some of the worst examples of social deprivation are to be found, we work there with families under stress, with young people facing the independence of adulthood without having had the traditional support of a family, and with school leavers who feel rejected by society because they cannot get a job. We do not pretend that we can offer a magic wand, but we can offer the work we do can go a long way towards keeping would-be young offenders out of the courts altogether. If only more money could be spent and more work done in this direction, there might be considerably less demand for borstals. This, surely, is the right way ahead.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN WAGNER, Chairman of Council, Barnardo's Tanners Lane, Barking, Essex.

To Marathon and back

From Mr Michael Preston
Sir, Your leader today (May 8) on the subject of the Marathon is guilty either of bad history or of an unjustified inference. According to Herodotus, Pheidippides was sent by the Athenians to run the 150 miles to Sparta to enlist the latter's help against the Persian army which had just landed on the coast of Attica. This journey Pheidippides is claimed to have completed within twenty four hours, but Herodotus makes no mention of any return to Athens by the runner before the battle of Marathon itself.

The tradition that Pheidippides also carried the news of victory back to Athens after the battle derives from the doubtfully spurious story by Lucian who says that the six hundred years after Marathon. However, if Lucian is to be believed, then Pheidippides, having run the 300 mile return trip to Sparta, proceeded to run both to the battle and back to Athens a further 50 miles. After 350 miles, one can feel some sympathy with him for dropping down dead.

Would any of the competitors in the London Marathon care for a brisk jog to Edinburgh? Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PRESTON,
91 Redington Road, NW3,
May 8.

Tent-pegging

From Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Gray, late Skinner's Horse
Sir, The colourful story by the Commander of the Pakistan Bodyguard as to the origins of tent-pegging (May 7) is not correct. Pathan tribesmen were never mounted on horses and did not use their swords to cut the British camps at night but relied on stealing arms by stealth, or on long-range indiscriminate sniping.

Tent-pegging was performed in the late 18th century by horse-drawn troops practised their use of the lance. The word was probably introduced a century before that by Mogul spearmen. It was one of the ways in which mounted troops practised their use of the lance. In the "Private Journal of the Marquess of Hastings", the Governor General and Commander-in-chief in India, writing in 1815, states "I reviewed Colonel Skinner's Irregular Cavalry on January 14th 1815 and the soldiers displayed their skill at arms by picking tent pins from the ground at full gallop".

In the National Army Museum at Chelsea there is a large painting of a review of Skinner's Horse 1828, in which the troops are shown galloping at paces with their lances. These irregular cavalrymen were later incorporated into the British Service and were generally known as "The Bengal Lancers". Later they became the famous Indian cavalry regiments, twenty-one in number, which now form the armoured units of both the Indian and the Pakistan armies.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS GRAY,
Homebush,
Newmarket,
Suffolk,
May 7.

Media attitudes on Falklands news

From Mr John Page, MP for Harrow West (Conservative)
Sir, The letter from Mr Peter Snow (May 6) deserves re-reading more for what it did not say than for what it did.

The Chairman of the Governors of the BBC and the Director General have declared that, in connection with the Argentine hostilities, the "BBC is not neutral". Surprisingly, however, Mr Snow only emphasised the importance of dispassionate reporting and analysis, and "constantly to question those who have the power to direct events" (for many, too much and too persistent).

It is this superior tone of super-neutrality which so many of us find to be objectionable and unacceptable when our forces are in action — we expected the BBC to be on our side. Even though their TV, radio and religious broadcasting must have given greater comfort to the Argentines than to the British, Argentine makers still seem to be mystified why they keep our blood at boiling point and our fingers on the channel switch.

It was a pity that some kind of independent complaints board was not built in when the BBC charter was renewed, but perhaps it is still not too late to do something about this.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN PAGE,
House of Commons,
May 10.

From Mr Nicolas Dounie
Sir, Now that the euphoria surrounding the dispatch of the Task Force has been replaced by a taste of the savage realities of combat, perhaps a may, a former soldier and war correspondent, be allowed to comment on the coverage of these events by the media.

It is wholly unjust to accuse the BBC of taking up a neutral or anti-British stand in this affair. A leading news anchor, "D. Notice" has reported as accurately as it is able to on the confusion of battle. The accounts of reaction in Argentina have been illuminating and valuable, and cannot possibly be construed as bias.

I blame for remarks made in Parliament lies entirely with those who made them, and not with the broadcasters. If the House is embarrassed by the fatuity of its own behaviour, then it has only itself to condemn. The pressures on the Task Force officers to explain their actions to the world are in my opinion most unreasonable, but this information is released by the Ministry of Defence which has total control over the means of communication. If this information backfires on the Government, or, as some of it may have done, on the men in action, then it is the Ministry and not the reporters who should be pilloried.

However, all sections of the media can be fairly criticized for

the manner in which they have speculated — apparently for no more than entertainment value — on the tactical alternatives open to the military. In this, they have been aided and abetted by a number of semi-senile senior officers who should have known a great deal better.

It is no defence to say that these ideas are obvious to an enemy, because that is frequently not the case. What may be a blindingly apparent on one side of the firing line is often a matter of considerable doubt on the other, as any reporter or military historian should know. To theorize in this fashion is to put men's lives at risk, and the moral responsibility for that is altogether different from the canons of factual objectivity.

As an ex-SAS soldier I was appalled by the constant repetition, from a variety of sources, that members of the regiment were probably already ashore. I have no idea — nor do I want to know — whether or not these stories are true, but it must be pointed out that SAS operations are difficult, dangerous, and sometimes of a magnitude which far outweighs the number of men involved, and to compromise their security in any way is possibly to have a great deal of blood on one's hands.

The BBC has a wide and unequalled reputation for journalistic integrity, which should be vigorously defended — once lost, it can never be regained. Idle speculation, however, is quite another matter. Yours faithfully,
NICK DOUNIE,
Semmering, Barnet Road, Hertfordshire,
May 7.

Soccer crowd control

From Mr R. Gregory
Sir, In the wake of the second death outside a football ground in north London this season, the time is long overdue for some home truths to be stated. The only way you can guarantee that rival supporters will be segregated inside a ground is if the match is made "all ticket". In other words ensure compulsory separation.

As a supporter of Arsenal who has often stood on Highbury's "infamous" North Bank I'm well aware of the peculiar reluctance of Arsenal Football Club to achieve this very obvious precaution. Most clubs are equally well aware of which matches are

Present help for Vietnam's people

From Sir Arthur Peterson and others
Sir, David Munro's film on ITV "Going Back" (review, April 29) recording the return to Vietnam of American war veterans is a stunning indictment of the West's efforts to isolate and ignore the sufferings of the Vietnamese people. The scenes of starving and deformed children in a sinking hospital in Saigon with virtually no medical facilities will remain with us for a very long time.

With their own country in such a desperate plight, little wonder that thousands of Vietnamese continue to risk everything in attempts to leave in unseaworthy boats. In the first three months of 1982, 11,358 seafaring countries of first asylum. Many were robbed and raped. Many others drowned. Now the United States Government has announced that it will only accept those Vietnamese who have close family ties or who worked for the United States or South Vietnamese governments. Most other Western governments have greatly reduced their refugee programme in Vietnam, encourage more Vietnamese to leave and contribute towards the terrible deprivation we saw in David Munro's film.

Britain has supported the United States embargo on aid shipments to Vietnam. Britain has also persuaded the EEC to stop humanitarian aid to Vietnam. This policy merely worsens the situation in Vietnam, encourages more Vietnamese to leave and contributes towards the terrible deprivation we saw in David Munro's film.

We would strongly urge the Government to support the French proposal that the EEC should resume food aid to Vietnam, and we would urge British people who want to help relieve the suffering of Vietnamese children to contribute to the assistance programmes being sponsored by Christian Aid, CAFOD, Ockenden Venture, Oxfam, Quaker Peace & Service and others.

Yours faithfully,
SIR ARTHUR PETERSON,
CARTIN BARBER,
M. C. BAX,
ANDREW C. CLARK,
R. A. HOOD,
JOYCE E. JACKSON,
JOYCE E. JACKSON,
JOYCE E. JACKSON,
British Refugee Council,
Bondway House,
3/5 Bondway, SW8,
May 7.

From Mr Anthony M. Phillips
Sir, In an interview shown on "News at Ten" last night (May 6) Mr Winston Churchill professed himself disgusted that the media are reporting the Falklands crisis in a manner that does not meet with Government approval.

Surely the long-established freedom of the media in this country to report the news as they think fit is at the heart of what distinguishes our society from that presided over by what the Hon Member for Stroud rightly describes as a "repressive Fascist dictatorship". Yours etc.,
ANTHONY M. PHILLIPS,
110 Carlton Avenue West, Wembley, Middlesex,
May 7.

From Mr Millett Wood
Sir, Is it not time that the highly irresponsible commissioning of opinion polls on the Falklands Islands ceased? Yours sincerely,
MILLET WOOD,
8, Onslow Gardens, SW7,
May 7.

From Mr T. D. Bridge
Sir, There is a weapon which Admiral Woodward appears not to have used, which will not kill and yet is one which we may shortly not be able to use. I refer to the facts about the Falklands situation and the delivery of these by leaflet and other means direct to the 7,000 Argentine servicemen on the islands.

Evidence continues to come forward that the Argentine soldier believes in his nation's claim. This is hardly surprising as each man since early school days has been told at very least that the Falklands belong to his country.

The Argentine soldiers are neither fools nor cowards. Below field rank it appears that the men are convinced that their cause is right. We may, therefore, expect a hard fight.

It would cost comparatively little to drop leaflets that set out in simple terms, and in the Spanish spoken in Argentina, the facts about the Falklands Islands, how the present position arose and why the British task force has been ordered to the South Atlantic. Leaflets be dropped by air over the Falklands and by Vulcan over Buenos Aires. Leaflets do not win wars but can give powerful support to a commander able to use them.

If and when an Argentine Government comes to negotiate the Foreign Office will not want BBC World Service nor any other agency of HMG to present such truths direct to the armed forces of the Argentine as Admiral Woodward can now do.

If Admiral Woodward has not yet been given men and systems to enable this weapon to be used, then surely action must be taken today. Yours faithfully,
T. D. BRIDGE,
The Army Quartermaster,
1 West Street, Tavistock, Devon,
May 4.

Animal experiments

From Sir Francis Avery Jones
Sir, The designation of a World Day for Laboratory Animals on April 24, as reported in the Times, highlights the anxiety felt by many members of the public. Their intercessory prayers in many churches have in part already been met, as there has been great activity in this field.

Only last week the Humane Research Trust, one of several active organizations, held an important conference at Manchester which was attended by medical scientists from many universities, by representatives of national and multinational pharmaceutical companies, the Home Office, medical foundations and by individuals.

This conference brought together the present experience of alternatives to the use of laboratory animals. This movement is being strongly supported by many medical scientists who are anxious to improve the quality of scientific observations.

With the use of human volunteers, the use of tissue donated by patients at the time of an operation, blood samples and placenta, a remarkable amount of invaluable information can be obtained. Such human studies can not only reduce the numbers of animals used but also improve the quality of scientific observations.

However with the strong demand from the public for safety of drugs and environmental chemicals there is a vast field of toxicology to be covered and for a long time yet there will be a need to remember that animals as well as man have benefited enormously from all the work hitherto done producing so many vaccines and potent drugs and in uncovering environmental dangers.

The call for a Government ban on behavioural and psychological experiments in animals could get much support from within the medical profession who know how right Pope was in saying "the proper study of mankind is man".

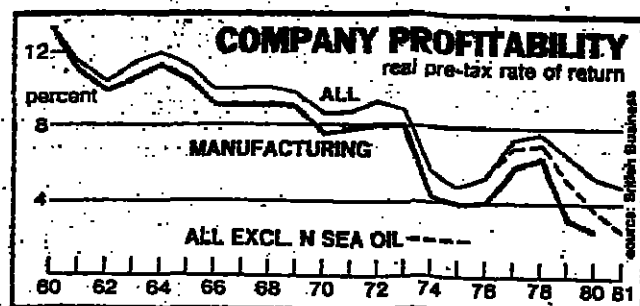
The time is rapidly approaching when the public will be asked to volunteer their help to augment the human studies by the staff of research centres under taken on themselves.

Yours faithfully,
F. AVERY JONES,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
April 24.

Parliament of rogues

From Mr R. R. Darlington
Sir, Golfers at Aberdovey can confirm the aptness of another curious noun of assembly, an "unkindness" of ravens, as they watch their balls being removed from the fairway and carried off to the less accessible areas of the Snowdonia National Park.

Yours etc.,
R. R. DARLINGTON,
Uwchlan, Aberdovey, Gwynedd,
May 8.



The last 20 years have witnessed a steady decline in the profitability of British companies outside the relatively prosperous North Sea oil sector. New official figures show that the real pre-tax rate of return on assets for companies not involved in North Sea activities fell to 2.5 per cent in 1981 from 3.5 per cent in 1980. Manufacturing companies fared even worse, with an estimated real rate of return last year of 1.5 to 2 per cent from 2.5 per cent in 1980.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 590.5, up 7.2
FT 100 89.01, up 0.63
FT Allshare 338.53, up 3.47
Bargains 18,535
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 7,564.59, up 5.42
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index:
1,377.55 up 2.58

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
STERLING \$1.8355, up 1 cent
Index 90.5, up 0.5
DM 4.25
Fr F 10.9400
Yen 428.00

INTEREST RATES

Base rates 13%
3-month interbank 13%-13
Euro-currency rates
3-month dollar 14%-14.5%
3-month DM 8%-8.5%
3-month Fr F 21%-21.5%

DOLLAR
Index 111.8, up 0.1
DM 2.2872, down pts
GOLD
\$329.75, don \$4.50

Argyll poised for takeover

Shares of Mr James Gulliver's Argyll Foods were suspended yesterday, sparking off speculation that the group is poised to make a substantial acquisition. At Friday's closing price of 103p, the food manufacturer and retailer has a market capitalization around £42m. Earlier this year Argyll bought 67 Pricerite discount stores from B.T. Stores for £5m. Since there was no shares suspension, then an acquisition at this time is likely to be a large one. Allied Suppliers Occidental, is believed to be a prime target for Argyll.

Lacey quits Simplicity post

Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, former chairman and chief executive of NCC Energy, has resigned as chairman and chief executive officer of the Simplicity Pattern group of the United States. NCC, now run by Cook International Inc, has sold its 20 per cent stake in Simplicity with which he once planned to merge NCC in a £50m deal.

£18.4m for steel towns

The European Commission is to make £18.4m available for new programmes in areas hit by closures of British Steel works. Payment will be made in conjunction with £29.4m from national resources. The programme, designed to run for five years, will concentrate on Strathclyde, Cleveland, Clywd, South Glamorgan, West Glamorgan, Gwent and Corby where more than 58,000 jobs have been lost since 1975.

Export credits compromise

The United States is prepared to accept the compromise agreement on the export credits worked out in Paris last week. Mr Donald Regan, United States treasury secretary, said in Paris yesterday. Mr Regan said that the compromise proposals, which involve a small increase in interest rates were not perfect but would be approved by the United States.

THE SEVENTH Edition of Robert Willott's Current Accounting Law and Practice is published by the only comprehensive directory of UK laws and accounting standards, the volume has been delayed to coincide with the full introduction of the 1981 Companies Act. This is now expected in a few weeks.

The Triumph Acclaim is British the European Commission has ruled. British Leyland asked the EEC for an opinion after the Italian Motor trade association claimed it was Japanese.

Alfa Romeo, Italy's second largest car company, yesterday laid off 11,000 workers for 10 working days. The company which recently agreed with unions a ceiling of 50 days temporary suspension during 1982, blamed falling demand.

COMPANIES

BRITISH Home Stores staged a recovery in the second half to end the year with profits up from £39.7m to £42.6m before tax.

LEADING jobber Akroyd & Smithers pushed up first half profits from £5.9m to £10.6m before tax on the back of falling interest rates and rising markets.

LAUNDRY and textile equipment manufacturer Neil & Spencer is to press ahead with its £500m rights issue despite the board's admission that it will not meet the profit forecasts in its rights issue circular.

ROBERT MAXWELL's British Printing and Communication Corporation is urgently considering whether a higher bid for Lonsdale Universal would be justified after the Lonsdale board said the 60p a share offer from John Menzies gave a full valuation of the business.

TYSONS, Liverpool-based construction engineers, raised pretax profits from £155,000 to £147,800. Sales were also up at £27,326m against £21,69m and earnings per share rose 29.05p against 7.64p last time. Dividends have been held at the same level as last year at 3p gross per share.

PRICE CHANGES
Akroyd & Smithers 205, up 12
British Home Stores 170, up 9
Hawker Siddeley 324, up 4
Reed Int 304, up 10
Grand Met 221, up 4
United Scientific 388, up 20

Brittan urges rethink on public services

By Frances Williams

Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has hinted at a shake-up of public services which would involve expansion of private provisions.

In a keynote speech reviewing the Government's three years in office, he attacked the view that public services should increase in line with national wealth.

He told the Institute in Fiscal Studies in London: "The real question is how much the State is asked to provide, free, and still leave the individual citizen with the incentive and ability on top of that... to provide for his own old age, his own health and his own children's education, directly."

Mr Brittan pointed out that the three big social programmes — social security, health and personal social services and education — will cost £58,000m in 1982-83, almost half the total public spending. But he said there was no "right" level of spending.

Though some minimal level of services has to be provided by the State, he said "I believe we have to begin to rethink both the way the basic services are financed and delivered and the way that people choose, and government provides, services above the basic level."

Mr Brittan said that expectation of continuous improvements in public services was one of the biggest single government failures now faced in the current economic climate of the 1980s and beyond. He spoke pessimistically of being able to maintain, "and so far as possible improve on a fair basis", the services needed.

Mr Brittan said serious thought should be given to changing the basis on which public services are provided.



Brittan: A whole range of possibilities

He said: "People want and expect increased choice and increased flexibility and monolithic state-run services do not provide this."

An answer may be to create greater variety and flexibility in provision, financing and delivery systems, he suggested.

He said: "There may be scope for a whole range of different possibilities, with public and private facilities co-existing and supplementing each other, together with an increased reliance on private insurance, vouchers and the like." Legislation would be needed to ensure minimum standards.

Mr Brittan did not elaborate on these possibilities. But ministers are now studying methods of financing the health service and the idea of

education vouchers has strong support within sections of the Conservative Party.

Mr Brittan may also be preparing the ground among his Cabinet colleagues for a tough line on public spending in his present round of departmental discussions before decisions in the autumn on spending ahead.

Some ministers may want to argue that economic recovery justified commensurate improvement in services. On the economy Mr Brittan, while acknowledging that the Government had failed to achieve its objectives of cutting the burden of taxation and public spending, said its firm strategy was beginning to pay off. It was inconceivable, he added, that ministers would wish to change it.

Trade balance shows a £300m turnaround

By Frances Williams

Britain's balance of overseas trade improved by more than £300m in February, mounting up a surplus of £174m, a £132m deficit the previous month. Exports were up by 4 per cent from the low January figure while imports dropped by 3 per cent.

The visible trade such as financial services and shipping, brought the surplus on the current account to £654m, nearly twice the £348 recorded in January.

The turnaround in the visible balance resulted from improvements in both oil and non-oil trade. The surplus on oil trade rose to £270m in February from £168m in January, while the deficit on non-oil trade, a huge £300m in January, narrowed to £96m.

But the relatively encouraging February figures disguise a more worrying long-term trend. In the three months to February the oil trade surplus jumped to £877m from £570m in the previous three months, with oil exports running at a record level of £2,500m. But this has concealed a deterioration in non-oil trade. After big surpluses in the second half of 1980 and the beginning of 1981 non-oil trade has plunged into deficit. In the latest three months the deficit has risen to £480m to £295m in the three previous months.

Excluding oil and erratic items such as ships, oil rigs, aircraft and precious stones, the volume of exports rose by 2 per cent in the month to February, a little higher than in the same month a year

earlier but well below the levels of last autumn.

Exports overall showed a 5.5 per cent fall in the latest three months period from three months earlier. Though changes in the system of recording exports may have distorted the figures last year, Department of Trade officials comment that "the recent trend in the volume of exports was, at best, flat."

UK TRADE

Trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis, for known recording errors.

	Exports	Imports	Balance
1981	2448	4097	-1649
1982	2185	4176	-1991
1983	2185	4176	-1991
1984	2185	4176	-1991
1985	2185	4176	-1991
1986	2185	4176	-1991
1987	2185	4176	-1991
1988	2185	4176	-1991
1989	2185	4176	-1991
1990	2185	4176	-1991
1991	2185	4176	-1991
1992	2185	4176	-1991
1993	2185	4176	-1991
1994	2185	4176	-1991
1995	2185	4176	-1991
1996	2185	4176	-1991
1997	2185	4176	-1991
1998	2185	4176	-1991
1999	2185	4176	-1991
2000	2185	4176	-1991

This is disappointing news for the Government which is relying on higher exports to contribute to economic recovery this year.

Imports fell by 2.5 per cent in volume terms between January and February, mainly because of a drop in imports of manufactures. Over the three months to February imports were down by 6 per cent from the previous three months after their big surge in mid-1981, but remain nearly 20 per cent above their levels early last year.

A DROP in beer production at the Dar es Salaam brewery is costing Tanzania 2.5m shillings (£150,600) a day in lost tax revenues.

Uncertainty over Saudi oil output

By Jonathan Davis

There was renewed uncertainty yesterday about the exact level of oil production in Saudi Arabia, the largest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister, denied that his country's output had slipped to 5.5 million barrels a day from its official production ceiling of 7 million barrels a day. Shaikh Yamani refused to say whether Saudi Arabia's production is, but according to industry sources, it is running at about 6.5 million barrels a day.

Meanwhile, the upward trend in spot prices is certain to be taken by Opec ministers as evidence that their attempts to resist price reductions by concerted production cuts are paying off. The ministers are scheduled to meet next week in Quito, Ecuador for a regular six monthly price-fixing meeting and market traders appear to be convinced that the official Opec reference price of \$34 a barrel will now be held for the rest of this year.

Arab light crude was being quoted on the spot market yesterday in a range of \$32.85 to \$33.25 a barrel, about \$4 a barrel higher than the low point reached in March. Cargoes of North Sea oil were available at about \$34.70 a barrel, against an official term price of \$31 a barrel.

Oil companies who originally doubted Opec's ability to resist market pressures for price cuts now acknowledge that the oil producers may have done just enough to hold prices through to the end of the year when demand is expected to revive.

Cut in US interest rates 'no cure-all'

From David Blake

Paris, May 10
America's high interest rates dominated talks of the leading industrial finance ministers at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development here today. Mr Donald Regan, United States Treasury Secretary, accepted the need for action to cut the budget deficit and to bring down American interest rates. But he warned the other ministers that such action was "no panacea" for the world's economic problems.

The meeting, which finishes tomorrow is the first in a round of economic talks that culminate with the world economic summit at Versailles in early June. Today's discussions made it plain that there are now three conflicting views of what needs to be done to solve the problems of recession and inflation. Mr Regan's statement was designed to remind other countries that they had to play a part in bringing down interest rates throughout the world. The United States Administration says that other countries have to cut their budget deficit as well as America. Leading European nations think that the problem lies firmly in the United States, which they blame for high interest rates throughout the world.

Some smaller countries and the OECD secretariat want to see "a differentiated approach" under which the United States would cut its deficit but some other countries would boost demand. Very little concrete progress in bringing these points of view together was achieved. Mr Regan said he had been impressed by the number of countries wanting action to reduce the United States deficit. It is clear that the United States is seeking both to head off European criticism of high interest rates and to put pressure on Congress at home.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, was one of the milder speakers on the problem of the need for action but, congratulating the United States on its progress in reducing inflation.

Sir Geoffrey also gave a strong warning to Japan of the need for it to open up its markets and to reduce its dependence on exports. Japan's trade surplus is emerging as a second major theme of international concern.

A communiqué is expected to be issued tomorrow, which will seek to emphasize that there is broad agreement on the need for sustainable economic growth.

Business Editor

Shares remain vulnerable

The stock market is never very good at second-guessing the course of politics or wars. At the moment, markets are betting on a successful outcome in the South Atlantic and the consequent electoral advantage for Mrs Thatcher. Sterling is at an 11-week peak and the 30-share index at 590.5, up 7.2 yesterday, is within a whisker of its all-time high of 597.5 reached in April last year. The 600 barrier is clearly within reach.

The economic fundamentals, lower inflation, control over the borrowing requirement and money supply, improved last month. Sterling has held up well, dollar rates are set to fall, jobbers are short of stock, institutional cash is building up and long-term gilt yield due to decline.

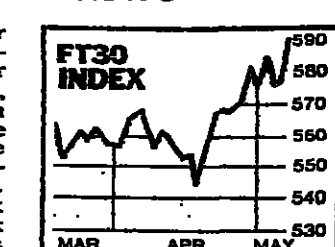
Yet much of the recent good news has probably been discounted. Sell in May and go away" is still one of the stock market's truer saws as summer counter-attractions loom. At present levels, shares are vulnerable to a sizeable decline until the autumn. First, however, the immediate course will be determined not by the fundamentals, but by events in the Falklands. There are signs of patriotic over-optimism in the City. That could change dramatically should there be an invasion.

Trident has two alternatives: it can appeal to a high court for it can sell. The company must therefore be seriously considering passing on the clubs to someone who can operate them.

How much of the £14.6m Trident paid for Playboy's British business can be recouped in the present climate is doubtful. It is doubtful because of the extreme difficulty in guessing after yesterday's decision who might be a fit and proper person. Trident lost its independent television franchises because it was judged too powerful, not because it was thought an unsuitable company.

There is a disturbing dimension to the variety of views regulators can apparently take about a company. It is of course true that companies, like individuals, may be better suited to some things than others.

Trident and its shareholders know they were taking a chance, but they can be excused for questioning regulatory fickleness and for resenting the opprobrium that inevitably attaches to a company after such a decision.



insurance, or education vouchers are immense. In so far as Mr Brittan gives any specifics it is to suggest that the state might provide basic services, as in hospital care, and that the private system can provide the extras, cosmetic surgery for example. It is a suggestion of quite horrendous implications for education and social security just as for medicine. But the point Mr Brittan makes is really that there is now no alternative to such a radical rethink if the people are to have anything left in their post-tax income.

Gaming Deeper issues

Trident's gamble on replacing lost television income with gaming revenue from the Playboy clubs seems to have failed. But the decision of the South Westminster magistrates raises more issues than the future of Trident.

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Pay gloom for state industry chiefs

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Nationalized industry chairman, whose relationship with the Government has become increasingly strained over recent months, are resigning themselves to an across-the-board salary increase this year of no more than 6 per cent.

There is now a widespread belief in the boardrooms of state corporations that the Government will once again hold down public sector salaries because of poor economic conditions. Salaries are understood to be among the items for discussion at meeting on Friday of the Nationalized Industry Chairman's Group and at subsequent discussions with senior civil servants, but there appears to be little optimism that the gap between state chairmen's

pay and that of leading private sector industry chiefs will be narrowed.

Successive governments have depressed salary increases in the public sector because of formal or informal income policies. The result that few nationalized industry chairmen were paid more than £50,000 last year compared with salaries well in excess of £100,000 paid to top private sector company directors.

Last year, few state chairmen received more than a 7 per cent rise, an exception being Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, whose salary rose by 25 per cent to £60,000.

The highest paid is Mr Peter Shelbourne, chairman of the British National Oil

Corporation, who received £62,600 last year, but more typical are Sir Derek Ezra at the National Coal Board and Sir Denis Rooke of British Gas, who were both paid £51,360.

Salaries apart, a main part of the nationalized industry chairmen's attention is devoted to the thorny issue of increasing government interference in the running of the corporations.

New government attempts to monitor the industries with the setting up of the Public Enterprise Analytic Unit — part of the Prime Minister's drive to make state companies more efficient — are seen by many state boards as the creation of yet another layer of government intrusion.

Headache for Whitehall headquarters Top job at BL still unfilled

By Edward Townsend

Department of Industry officials have a long short list of candidates for the BL chairmanship when Sir Michael Edwards' quits at the end of the year.

It is understood that the list has not been the subject of widespread consultation and various options are still being studied.

Concern has been expressed within Whitehall about delays in finding a successor to Sir Michael, who is regarded as a difficult man to replace. In three years he has made a considerable impact on the company and, developed what many observers consider to be a notable style of brinkmanship, particularly in industrial relations matters. The BL job, which last year carried a salary of £95,500, is one of a number of top posts in the state sector that are proving a headache for Whitehall headquarters.

Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, left last week without a successor being announced and in July, Sir Derek Ezra will leave the National Coal Board, with no replacement yet announced.

There is also the problem of finding a new chairman for the British Steel Corporation when Mr Ian MacGregor's contract expires in June, 1983.



Edwards Andrews Horrocks

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The slimming down and decentralizing of BL has left four main groups — Cars, Unipart, Leyland and Rover — each with its own management team, and it is conceivable that these could be reestablished as separate companies.

The attraction of such a move is that it would isolate the much troubled Leyland commercial vehicle operation, badly hit last year by the recession in the truck market. Another advantage is that the head of the holding company could be a non-

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- In the most significant transaction in the history of Queens Moat Houses P.L.C. the Group have doubled in size to 50 operating units with the recent acquisition of 26 hotels from Grand Metropolitan.
- Pre-tax profits for the enlarged Group for 1982 have been forecast at not less than £2.5 million against £1,028 million for 1981. Earnings per share are expected to increase to 2.83p from 2.54p.
- A 10% dividend increase is forecast for 1982 following the 40% improvement in 1981.
- The majority of the hotels acquired are located in commercial centres and have extensive conference facilities. They therefore dovetail neatly with the existing Queens Moat hotels and extend the

Group's policy of concentrating on the needs of the businessman.

- The cost of the additional 1,915 bedrooms acquired, averages £15,600 per bedroom. This compares very favourably with current costs of building new hotels, which are considerably in excess of this figure.
- Queens Moat Houses are now the UK's largest quoted group specialising in commercial provincial hotels.

For a copy of the 1981 Report & Accounts write to:
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MARKET SUMMARY

A shortage of high-quality stocks

Hopes that Wall Street would continue to lead international interest rates down kept London markets rising yesterday. (Sally White text.) The Bank of England held London interest rates steady, but markets expect this intervention to be once the Falklands fad as a threat to sterling. Confidence in an agreeable diplomatic solution stayed high.

The FT 30 index moved to within a few points of its all-time high in the afternoon, before profit-taking brought it back to close at 390.5, just 3 points below last May's all-time record.

High institutional liquidity — Messel's forecast a May inflow of £1,300m to £1,400m plus £200m to £300m left from April — is supporting the markets.

Another important factor is that the steady interest of institutions in buying high quality stocks is exacerbating the problems being faced by the jobbers. They are short of quality stocks, because there are no sellers in size around, nor have there been for some months.

Defence stocks are a sector where the market is short. DEC went down 29 before it closed at 89.2, up 5p. Plessey closed at 42.8p, up 12p. Ferranti rose 7.30p up 4p at 24.2p. British Aerospace was a very active share, rising to 21.6p, up 3p. United Scientific closed at 38.8p, up 3p.

Gilts closed with long-dated stocks up 1 of a point, mediums were 1 higher and shorts gained 1. On the trade figures they gained a further 1 1/2 late trading.

All markets reported a low level of business, with brokers complaining that the uncertainty of the last few weeks had kept most of the customers away.

Two lines reported were one of 670,000 Anglia TV, which went fast, leaving the shares unchanged at 132p. A line of half a million Barrat went a couple of pence below the market price, leaving them at 290p.

Trident TV was slashed by the jobbers on the loss of the application for a casino licence for the Playboy Club. The shares dropped from 84p to 68p, and down a further 4p in after hours trading.

Akroyd's figures reflected the earlier high turnover this year in the gilt market. The pre-tax was £10.6m against £7.6m. The shares rose 12p to 205p. The dividend is up, at 4p against 3.5p.

British Home Stores figures with profits up 7 per cent, took the shares to 176p, up 15p.

Hopes of lower interest rates failed to help Lloyds Bank, still bedeviled by its Argentinean interests — it stayed at 40.8p. But Barclays was up 5p at 41.6p.

Among the sharpest rises was King & Shaxson, up 6p at 30p, and Smith & Aubyn, up 15p.

Prestige Group, manufacturers of household goods, were in demand on forecasts of figures up from £6.6m to £7.5m. That is on a price earnings ratio of 9 and a yield of 5 1/2 per cent. The shares rose 5p to 188p.

2p at 37p the discount houses, hoping to benefit from the interest rate cuts. First Castle was up 5p at 61p ahead of figures.

The gold shares suffered heavily from the decline in the gold price and there were falls of 50 cents to a dollar. In the sterling quotation, Western Gold were down £1.16 to £17.51. Western Deep dropped 50p to £11, and Blyvoors were down 15p at 43.6p.

Oils were all firmer, with Ultramar up 10p at 43.5p ahead of the figures. Hush Oil gained 15p at 29.5p. Shell was just 2p higher at 42.0p.

Worries about the High Street price war left Tesco at 56p and Sainsbury at 61.0p, with Kwiksave down 4p at 22.8p.

Brewers were a good market, with Grand Met at 221p, up 4p.

Higher bid hopes took Anderson Strathclyde up 4p to 142p. The Charter Consolidated bid is worth around 135p.

Red International jumped 10p to 30.4p on figures due in early June. Courtalds was a further 5p higher, 95p ahead of figures, and Cable & Wireless were up 11p at 27.5p ahead of its results.

Two small shares which rose in speculative dealing were handbag manufacturers Lancia up 14p at 50p, and shoemakers Lambert Horwath, up 12p at 77p. Both received weekend newspaper mentions.

Ash & Lacey, metal fabricators, rose by 18p to 31.5p on the chairman's statement that 1982 has started well, and the prospects for the first half are good.

Harris Queens rose 4p to 182p, following on the recent good figures.

The pound strengthened further in quiet trading on foreign exchanges yesterday. Its overall value, as measured by the effective exchange rate, rose 0.5 to 90.5, the best it has been since the British left for the Falklands more than a month ago. In dollar terms, the pound finished 1 cent higher at 1.8355.

Dealers said the Falklands issue continued to overhang the market, making for very cautious trading. However, sterling, like most other leading European currencies,

benefited from a dollar that was reflecting softer European dollar rates on the possibility of a reduction in United States prime rates in the next week or so.

German marks rose from 2.2910 to 2.895 against the dollar, while French francs headed from 5.9750 to 5.9615. Closing levels were below the best though. Swiss francs dipped from 1.8910 to 1.9005 in the wake of cuts in Swiss time deposit rates.

The Japanese yen declined from 232.80 to 233.60 in dollar terms.

London discount market, money conditions had been expected to be tight, and the shortage eventually proved larger than had been anticipated. The Bank of England, initially forecast £550m, amended this to around £450m at lunchtime, then uprated to £500m in the afternoon.

In its lunchtime open market operations, the Bank was able to buy only £6m of bills as it rejected probing offers by the houses at lower rates. These bank bills, the authorities took at 13 per cent. In the afternoon, the houses offered their paper at rates that allowed the authorities to take in a further £416m of bills at already established rates.

Interbank opened at 12 1/2 to 13 per cent but went up to 13 1/2 to 14 per cent. On the shortage forecast by the Bank of England, by lunchtime it was up to 15 to 16 1/2 per cent, but came off to finish in the area of 13 to 11 per cent.

Eurodollar deposits opened with a flurry, but became quiet. Fed funds were called 14 1/2 per cent, much as expected, and the market response to await New York response to wait pessimism by Henry Kaufman on the score of the prospective federal deficit.

However, a £3m reduction in stocks to £55.5m, combined with changes in stock relief in the 1980 budget and other adjustments, has cut into stock and the tax charge is up from £12.1m to £15.8m. So after-tax profits were down by nearly £1m to £26.8m and earnings per share have fallen from 13.5p to 13.0p.

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BHS makes second-half recovery

British Home Stores, where former ICI chief Sir Maurice Hodgson is to become chairman, recovered from its dismal first half when profits fell by £3m to £7.6m to finish the year to April 3 showing a 7 per cent gain to £42.6m pretax.

The figures were well above outside estimates and the shares closed 15p higher at 176p. The final dividend has been raised by nearly a tenth to leave the total up from 6.43 gross to 6.79p.

The gloomy trends of the first half — lower gross margins, falling volume and market share — were reversed in the second half.

Sales in the second half, adjusting for the fact that there was one extra week's trading the previous year, increased by 7.4 per cent, which included a volume gain of 2 1/2 to 3 per cent in non-foods. Growth came in women's and children's clothing and BHS managed to restore gross margins.

The higher throughput enhanced profits and the group also benefited from a rise of only 6 per cent in payroll costs reflecting a cut in part-time staff.

Improved liquidity and a much bigger contribution from the Savacentre joint venture with Sainsbury also helped the group to push up profits.

Savacentre, where BHS has now invested £21m and five stores have been opened, increased its contribution from £229,000 to £1.5m despite about £500,000 of pre-opening costs. No further stores have yet been announced.

A combination of tighter stock control and a shortfall on planned capital spending has pushed up liquidity. Cash and near-cash was up from £24m to nearly £40m at the year end — with the result that £1.1m of interest charges the previous year were replaced by £1.4m of net interest receivable.

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INTERNATIONAL



UNITED STATES

Pay in 1982 'will top inflation'

Salaries are likely to outpace inflation this year for the first time in three years, according to a national survey of 640 companies by Sibusco management consulting firm.

Most employees will be receiving pay rises only slightly lower than those budgeted by employers last autumn.

Since then, inflation has declined sharply, allowing employees to recoup real earnings losses between 1979 and 1982 when rising costs exceeded planned salary increases.

US steel will temporarily shut down its Fairfield, Alabama mill this week for only the third time in the mill's history and lay off several hundred employees.

The shutdown was caused by a large stockpile of steel and iron and a shortage of orders.

Mr James B. Edwards, United States Secretary of Energy, is planning to resign at the end of June, according to the Washington Post. He plans to accept a position at the University of South Carolina, the Post added.

JAPAN

The Development Bank of Japan is considering lending for the first time to a wholly foreign-owned company operating in Japan. It is awaiting a formal application for the loan from Fairchild Japan Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation of the United States.

The move is seen as helping to ease trade friction with the West.

Kawasaki Steel Corp and Sumitomo Metal Industries have raised their steel prices to major domestic users by an average of 5.2 to 5.4 per cent effective from contracts for June/July shipments.

Three Mitsubishi group companies have won a Yen 35,000m (about £7.125m) order from Tunisian gas and power corporation, Societe Tunisienne De L'electricite et Du Gaz, for the supply of a 340,000-kilowatt thermoelectric power plant.

Toshiba Corporation and Mitsui Company have jointly received a letter of intent from East Germany for the purchase of Yen 10,000m (£2.232m) plant to manufacture radio/cassette tape recorders in East Berlin. A formal contract is likely to be signed later this month.

WEST GERMANY

West Germany's seasonally adjusted industrial production declined 1 per cent in March from February, the economics ministry reported yesterday on the basis of preliminary statistics.

The March production index stood at 106 (1976 equals 100) down from a February index of 107 and unchanged from a year ago. In the first quarter, West German preliminary seasonally adjusted industrial production was unchanged from the fourth quarter of 1981 but down about 1.85 per cent from the year-earlier quarter with first quarter 1982 index at 106.

SWEDEN

Mr Thorbjörn Fälldin, the Prime Minister, yesterday expressed confidence in the nation's economy. He told a meeting of the Swedish retail trade association, *Kopmanförbundet*: "Inflation is on its way down, the current account deficit is narrowing, exports are growing faster than imports, and Swedish industry is better equipped than it has been in a long time."

ITALY

Fiat yesterday re-employed 40,000 workers it had laid off for one week because of growing stocks of cars and trucks. But the group, Italy's largest private employer, has already said 40,000 workers will be suspended for another week in June. In Italy laid-off workers receive about 30 per cent of their normal salary through a special state fund.

MEXICO

Consumer prices rose by a record 5.4 per cent in April from the month before, the Mexican Central Bank said. The increase for the first four months of the year was 19.2 per cent or close to 70 per cent compounded on an annual basis.

Prices have been rising since February when the Central Bank let the peso float. It subsequently fell by 40 per cent against the dollar and is now worth about two cents.

SOUTH AFRICA

The deficit on South Africa's balance of payments is expected to be Rand 3,600m (£1,922m) in 1982, down from Rand 3,900m in 1981. Earnings from gold, which account for almost half the nation's total export revenues, will be about the same this year as the Rand 8,400m total in 1981. Non-gold exports are expected to rise by 18 per cent to Rand 11,000m this year.

The club prepares to open its doors



The dealing floor at the London Stock Exchange: outsiders could force the pace of change

The Number of Stock Exchange Firms									
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Stockbroking Firms	355	284	269	260	256	245	240	234	221
Jobbing Firms	24	21	21	20	20	20	19	19	17

Turnover — total value securities traded £ million									
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Stockbroking Firms	56,753	84,036	106,433	173,333	138,769	168,936	196,289	190,666	

At the expense of diluted profits, and a lesser say in how the business is run.

The rules are not being seen in isolation. They come at a time when those at the sharp end of the business are gearing up for one of the biggest changes in the way in which shares are bought and sold since the provincial stockbrokers were banned from acting as jobbers when all exchanges were merged in 1973.

Not only are the brokers earning insufficient from dealing commissions on share bargains — many still feel the recent stock exchange review of minimum commissions failed to increase them enough — but the whole system is presently the subject of a reference to the Restrictive Practices Court.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is prosecuting all 44,000 members of the exchange individually — but though in practice they will be able to elect a spokesman — for that section of the stock exchange rule book which states that stockbrokers must only act as agents, and jobbers must act only as principals. It is felt

the system represents a restrictive practice.

Although the exchange and the OFT have been trading blows through evidence for about three years and those salaried members of the stock exchange administration do not expect the first court appearance for at least a further two, sentiment on the trading floor is changing.

Until recently the dealers shared the view from the stock exchange's 24-floor offices in the tower that it (the exchange) would win its case. Now, there is an increasing feeling that it has no hope of winning and member firms are looking into how they can organize business after the OFT case along the lines of a dual capacity described as dual capacity, where jobbers and brokers act both as principals and agents.

There have even been suggestions that exchange officials have been working secretly on draft rules for dual capacity. Predictably these have been dismissed as "absolute nonsense".

The OFT case and the 30 per cent rule are seen as being linked. If merchant banks and others which now

take a percentage commission for the business which goes through them, see the chance of being allowed to act as a principal, taking an initial slice of a broker could appear attractive.

Of course there are those who would say that Britain is once again following the United States, and the rationalization in the broking community here follows a pattern well established in New York.

Though true in part it is a deceptive comparison. The major force for change in the United States, at least among those firms which survived the speculative orgy and late 1960s was the abolition of minimum commissions in the early 1970s, which introduced a ferocious blast of competition.

Firms undercut each other desperately, and over the decade this polarized the profession — to survive they became very large with a vast volume of business at low commission rates, or alternatively small, specialized, with tight control of overheads. So though the competitive pressure exists in the United

Kingdom it is on nothing like the scale of Wall Street.

The second development, and one which owes much to the drive of the American Secretary of the Treasury, Donald Regan, who was at the time number one at Merrill Lynch — the largest American broking firm — was to move beyond stockbroking. Largely because American banks are hampered from operating nationally he was able to spot the vacuum and develop his firm into a nationwide financial services group, offering everything from life assurance to mortgages, commodity trading to money funds and even credit cards.

It was this firm's astonishing success in moving beyond its traditional areas which forced its rivals to respond and led directly to the merger which so enlivened Wall Street last year. These included the acquisition of the number two firm Shearson Loeb Rhoades by American Express, and another giant Drexel Burnham Lambert, by Sears.

The American picture therefore is one of financial supermarkets — where the client can have all his financial needs catered for.

And this too is a long way from present British developments where the rules of the City are geared to keeping experts to their last — bankers stuck to banking, brokers to broking and so on.

But one thing which the American experience does suggest is that when you allow outsiders to become shareholders — as has been the case on Wall Street for years — it does force the pace of change. And that is a lesson the stock market authorities here should be aware of.

But the immediate problem for Britain is one of size. The consensus opinion is that whatever happens long term, there is no room for a medium-sized broking firm. The smaller partnerships feel they will survive on their private client dealing, the large will continue to draw strength from their heavy spending City contacts. The only avenue left for those in the middle is to merge.

Philip Robinson

Enzymes eat up investors' cash

The much-heralded scientific and business revolution to be engendered through biotechnology always had a futuristic flavour. It has become increasingly clear recently that profits to be earned from such processes are also unlikely to materialize for some years yet.

Millions of dollars have been poured into the field in America, and millions are likely to be lost. Many companies specializing in the area are in deep financial trouble.

In 1980, biotechnology appeared to have staked-out half a dozen major industries, each of which would be transformed by new manufacturing processes based on cell culture, genetic engineering, or the catalysing powers of enzymes. In addition, new products would emerge shortly to earn high profits.

Biotech revolutionaries could still be heard in London in March. An American forecaster, Mr Theodore Sheets Junior, announced that the world market for biotechnology products would be worth \$64.3 billion by the year 2000.

Mr Sheets said that the biggest single market sector, for energy products, would be worth \$16.3 billion, and that the industry's growth from current values would be 2.92-fold.

Meanwhile, serious financial and scientific pitfalls have beset many biotech ventures in the United States and, to a lesser extent, Europe.

In Britain, City institutions

are believed to have responded sceptically to Government invitations to form a consortium which would launch a company to exploit British agricultural applications of biotechnology. Only 18 months ago, such a partnership pooled £13m to create Caltech, a company specializing in medical biotech.

In the United States, symptoms of a traumatic biotech shakeout are well advanced. One of the most prudent and established companies, Bethesda Research Laboratories, has sacked 135 of its 410 employees, postponed a first public launch, and raised in Europe \$5.5m from debenture sales.

Six publicly-quoted companies — from Bio-Response of Connecticut to Vitrotek of California — are encountering difficulties. Others have ceased recruitment and begun a frantic search for a second phase development capital.

Although the money is drying up, the ideas are still fermenting; patent applications are at record levels. Bio-Response claims to have perfected a valuable mass culture technique, and Enzo Biochem hopes products it produced last month will begin to eliminate operating losses which, in the last quarter of 1981, amounted to \$418,000. But both companies' fortunes illustrate that the pace of scientific research and development has failed somehow to be synchronised with the expectations of venture capital.

In similar vein, the London brokers Rowe and Pitman have warned investors to beware of an industry in which a surfeit of venture capital has chased limited opportunities.

Large Corporations anxious to reinforce in-house programmes have been among the pack of investors, taking equity stakes to add to the influence their research

contracts exert. With money markets reluctant to invest, survival for many biotech enterprises may entail absorption into the biggest food, drug and chemical firms.

These were the industries which biotech's breathless prophets claimed would be revolutionized. "It was sheer delusion to lay claim to entire markets," an American analyst, Mr Stuart Stearns, claimed last month.

Mr Stearns expresses an emerging consensus: researchers need 10 to 15 years to perfect technologies which be of modest value compared with the claims of two years ago. Capital has in many cases been invested without a proper appreciation of the time scales involved.

Investors have commonly assumed a return of between 20 to 30 per cent after five to seven years. Even if innovative biotechnologies mature in double that time, their developers may discover that researchers in traditional

technologies have been equally resourceful. "Industries will defend themselves against attempts to make their products or processes obsolete," said Mr Stearns. "The targets won't stand still."

Dr John Walker, a London investment manager, who helped set up a number of biotech ventures, believes the business structures, products, profit targets and research programmes of the food, health care, chemical and waste processing industries are incompatible with a biotech revolution.

Circumstances can change, of course, and opportunities await companies seeking overnight success. Dr Walker estimates that there is scope for new and profitable pharmaceutical veterinary products, for example; but biotech on a macro-industrial scale replacing existing products, faces a long and testing march.

Helen Barker



Only about six out of approximately 30 biotech companies to have raised capital on the American markets will survive the next year, according to Douglas Rouse of the US investment bankers Kidder Peabody. The top six are already thought to have attracted 70 per cent of biotech investment.

"The same companies that raised equity so easily a few months ago are running out of cash," said Rouse. "Their overheads and research and development costs are killing them and most aren't close to producing products that could be profitable."

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Slump could continue into mid-1980s

Recession grounds US aircraft industry

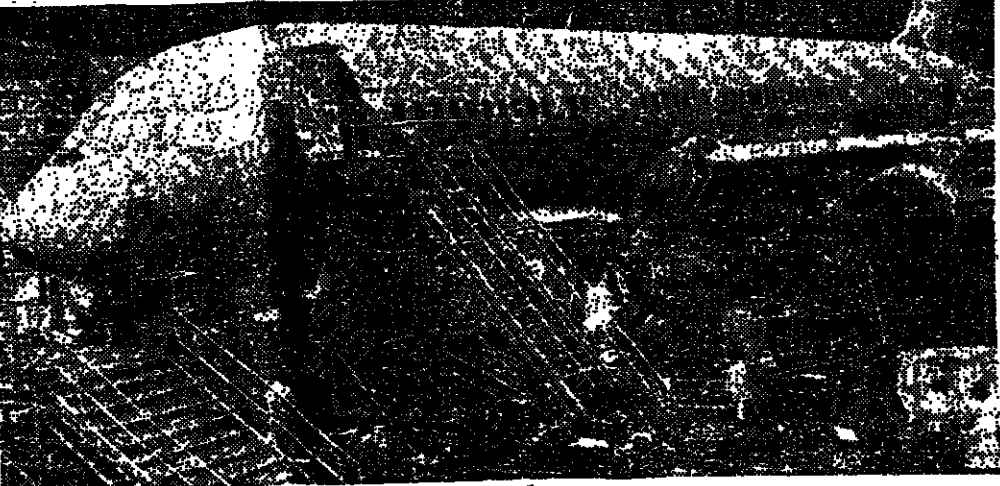
New York, May 10. — The United States airline slump is in its fourth year, and no improvement is expected until 1985 at the earliest. Industry executives say surviving lines will not be restructured and ready to buy new planes until 1985.

American Airlines has cancelled orders for 15 Boeing 757 jets worth \$600m (£333m) and dropped options to buy another 15.

United Airlines, meanwhile, has told Boeing to stop work on 20 Boeing 767s, valued at more than \$40m each, until Congress decides whether to retain sale and leaseback tax benefits in 1981.

One by one, airlines have cancelled options to buy Lockheed L-1011 TriStar jets costing \$50m to \$60m each. The cancelled options could cover more than \$2,000m of aircraft. As a result, Lockheed decided to phase out production of the planes and leave the commercial aircraft business entirely.

The sagging United States economy, reflected in declining airline traffic and brutal fare-cutting, is only a partial



A Boeing 757 nears completion but buyers are scarce

cause of the retrenchment, jet-fuel prices are falling, so airlines are not as eager as they were a few years ago to buy new fuel-efficient planes. Moreover, there is a world-wide glut of used aircraft, and used airplanes seem cheap.

"If an airline can buy a late-model DC10 for \$15m, why should it pay \$40m for a new one?" says Mr Michael

Derchin, an aerospace analyst with First Boston Corp.

For aerospace companies, stepped-up orders for military planes should help. But most companies expect additional cancellations or delivery delays before things improve. And for thousands of workers, 1982 shaping up as a year of production cuts, layoffs and anxiety.

McDonnell Douglas does

not have a single order for 1983 delivery of DC10s, and expects deliveries this year to skid to nine from 19 in 1981 and 40 in 1980. In the past year, the company has laid off the workforce at its Long Beach, California plant and at its machine shops in Torrance, California, to 18,723, a 26 per cent cut.

The company is counting on U.S. Government orders

for the military version of the DC10. To keep its Long Beach production lines open until the commercial aircraft market recovers. The defence budget for 1983 proposes eight KC10s. In addition McDonnell Douglas has previous orders for 16 KC10s of these it has delivered six to the Air Force, which has indicated it wants 60 of the planes in all.

The company says, however, that if DC10 orders remain small and annual production of the KC10 is low, it could be forced to close the assembly line.

The continuing fall in airlines' earnings, Lockheed officials say, has only confirmed the wisdom of their decision in December to phase out production of the L-1011 TriStar commercial jet.

Meanwhile, Boeing executives consider delivery postponements more likely than cancellations because financial penalties are incurred when orders already in production are halted.

Last year, profits from Boeing's commercial airline business plunged to \$308.1m from \$677.6m.

— AP Dow-Jones.

C. Gordon Tether

New factor in the gold picture

"Gold is dead but it won't lie down." This has been a truism ever since the United States establishment held with the American dollar the monetary stage as part of the crusade to make the dollar the unchallenged king of the world's monetary castle. Now looks as though its capacity to survive — come what may — is going to be materially reinforced by the new thinking about its role in the international reserves business that the financial repercussions of the Falklands upheaval have set in motion.

Hopes engendered by the Reagan presidential election campaign — that Washington might soon be found taking steps to get gold's additional function as a measure of value into operation again — were recently dealt a considerable blow. This was when the Congressional Committee which the new broom at the White House set up early last year to take a long look at the future of gold issued a report coming down heavily against any United States move to restore the gold standard.

In the matter, however, of gold's other main traditional function — as a store of wealth — it looks as though the story is about to take a marked turn for the better. As is demonstrated by the tenacity with which central banks have guarded their remaining stocks of gold, the metal's appeal as a method of holding a country's international reserves has survived the American drive to de-monetize it. But it can be said to have suffered a bit of a setback during the past year because of the interests rates explosion and the simultaneous slowdown in the rate of return in the financial pace-setting countries.

The decision of other leading countries to respond to Britain's call for economic sanctions against Argentina, has not led to the freezing of Argentine reserves held with them. But it has become evident that such a comprehensive stop could come about in such circumstances if feeling ran high enough.

The moral that, I suspect, many countries are going to draw from this tale, is that there is more to be said than they had previously supposed for keeping a reasonably substantial proportion of external reserves in the one form broadly immune from the backlash of international political entanglements — gold — even if this means sacrificing interest that could be earned on currency balances.

If so, the great buoyancy of the gold price has been manifesting of late could be more than a passing phenomenon.

Alternative

Between them, these two developments have strengthened the case for opting for the principal alternative to gold in the international reserves business — bank balances held in globally usable currencies like the dollar, the pound and the Deutschmark. This is because, by pushing interest rates beyond inflation rate, they have begun to provide holders of reserves expressed in currencies with a return previously the interest they earned was more than offset by the inflationary erosion of their capital. That, of course, is something that a stock of gold in a central bank's vault cannot be counted upon to do.

It is into the store of wealth aspect of the gold

Philip Robinson

APPOINTMENTS

Mr John A. Champion, formerly senior vice-president (Treasury) of Barclays Bank International, New York, has been appointed managing director of Barclays Bank International, London, through which Barclays will operate on the London International Financial Futures Exchange.

Mr Anton Klener, managing director of UB Restaurants, is joining the board of United Biscuits.

Mr T. G. King has joined Barmah Oil Exploration to head the company's new UK operating group which has been formed to manage exploration interests on the North Sea.

Mr Brian Wood has been appointed to the board of Southland Food Products, clothing and as managing director of the group's main subsidiary, Foster Menswear.

Mr Harold A. Whitall has joined the board of LRC International as a non-executive director.

Mr Ernest E. Taylor has been named as group financial director of Stroud Riley Drummond.

Mr Peter Skouen has joined the board of Hambros Bank.

Mr Martin W. Crowe has become treasury director of Henry Ansbacher.

Mr E. Galbraith, Mr R. R. Paton, Mr D. Plews and Mr A. W. Scorgie have been made directors of James M. Macalester & Alcock.

Mr D. G. Nunnery and Mr D.

picture that the Falklands crisis seems destined to inject an important new factor. For what it is clearly calculated to do is to draw attention to the strength of what may be called the non-monetary case for putting the emphasis on gold rather than international currencies. The British decision to feature the blocking of Argentina's sterling reserves in its Falklands sanctions programme is likely to be seen as heavily underlining that lesson for two reasons.

The United States action in freezing of Iranian funds held with the American financial system in retaliation for the seizure of the embassy hostages drew attention — as some Middle East countries observed at the time — to the vulnerability to international upheaval of external reserves, held in the form of other countries' currencies. The British decision to feature the blocking of Argentina's sterling reserves in its Falklands sanctions programme is likely to be seen as heavily underlining that lesson for two reasons.

One is that this is the second time within a few years that a country has had access to the foreign currency portion of its external reserves circumscribed just when this was particularly apt to cause it embarrassment.

The other, less obvious reason is that the repercussions of the Anglo-Argentine tussle have round in a way those of the American-Iranian clash did not, the possibility of a country's entire holding of reserve currencies being caught up in an international political confrontation even if it has taken care to ensure that all the eggs are not in the same basket.

The decision of other leading countries to respond to Britain's call for economic sanctions against Argentina, has not led to the freezing of Argentine reserves held with them. But it has become evident that such a comprehensive stop could come about in such circumstances if feeling ran high enough.

The moral that, I suspect, many countries are going to draw from this tale, is that there is more to be said than they had previously supposed for keeping a reasonably substantial proportion of external reserves in the one form broadly immune from the backlash of international political entanglements — gold — even if this means sacrificing interest that could be earned on currency balances.

If so, the great buoyancy of the gold price has been manifesting of late could be more than a passing phenomenon.

Alternative

Between them, these two developments have strengthened the case for opting for the principal alternative to gold in the international reserves business — bank balances held in globally usable currencies like the dollar, the pound and the Deutschmark. This is because, by pushing interest rates beyond inflation rate, they have begun to provide holders of reserves expressed in currencies with a return previously the interest they earned was more than offset by the inflationary erosion of their capital. That, of course, is something that a stock of gold in a central bank's vault cannot be counted upon to do.

It is into the store of wealth aspect of the gold

Philip Robinson

APPOINTMENTS

Mr John A. Champion, formerly senior vice-president (Treasury) of Barclays Bank International, New York, has been appointed managing director of Barclays Bank International, London, through which Barclays will operate on the London International Financial Futures Exchange.

Mr Anton Klener, managing director of UB Restaurants, is joining the board of United Biscuits.

Mr T. G. King has joined Barmah Oil Exploration to head the company's new UK operating group which has been formed to manage exploration interests on the North Sea.

Mr Brian Wood has been appointed to the board of Southland Food Products, clothing and as managing director of the group's main subsidiary, Foster Menswear.

Mr Harold A. Whitall has joined the board of LRC International as a non-executive director.

Mr Ernest E. Taylor has been named as group financial director of Stroud Riley Drummond.

Mr Peter Skouen has joined the board of Hambros Bank.

Mr Martin W. Crowe has become treasury director of Henry Ansbacher.

Mr E. Galbraith, Mr R. R. Paton, Mr D. Plews and Mr A. W. Scorgie have been made directors of James M. Macalester & Alcock.

Mr D. G. Nunnery and Mr D.

J. Fawn have been named as assistant directors of Wilson, Smith & Cope.

Mr D. W. J. Garrett has been elected chairman of Fleming, American Investment Trust. Mr G. J. A. Jamieson has been appointed a director.

Mr Christopher H. Davies has been appointed marketing and sales director of Mairn Floors.

[illegible]

SNOOKER

Preston North End's captain, Gordon Coleman, has been given free transfer, along with Buckley and Sayer, forwards, and Clark, a defender.

Legal Appointments

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Rover P5B, 1

Trident refused licence for Playboy casino

By Michael Prest

Trident Casinos, a subsidiary of Trident Television, yesterday was refused a licence to operate a casino at the Playboy Club in London.

The south Westminster licensing justices said they were not convinced that the company was a "fit and proper person to hold a licence under the Gaming Act".

A further hearing on granting a licence for the Clermont Club, in Berkeley Square, is due to be heard on Thursday. Trident declined to comment until this decision had been made.

Explaining their refusal, the justices said: "We are satisfied that the existing facilities for gaming are sufficient to meet existing demand." London has 16 casinos, including the Playboy and the Clermont, and the Gaming Board has maintained for some time that there are too many.

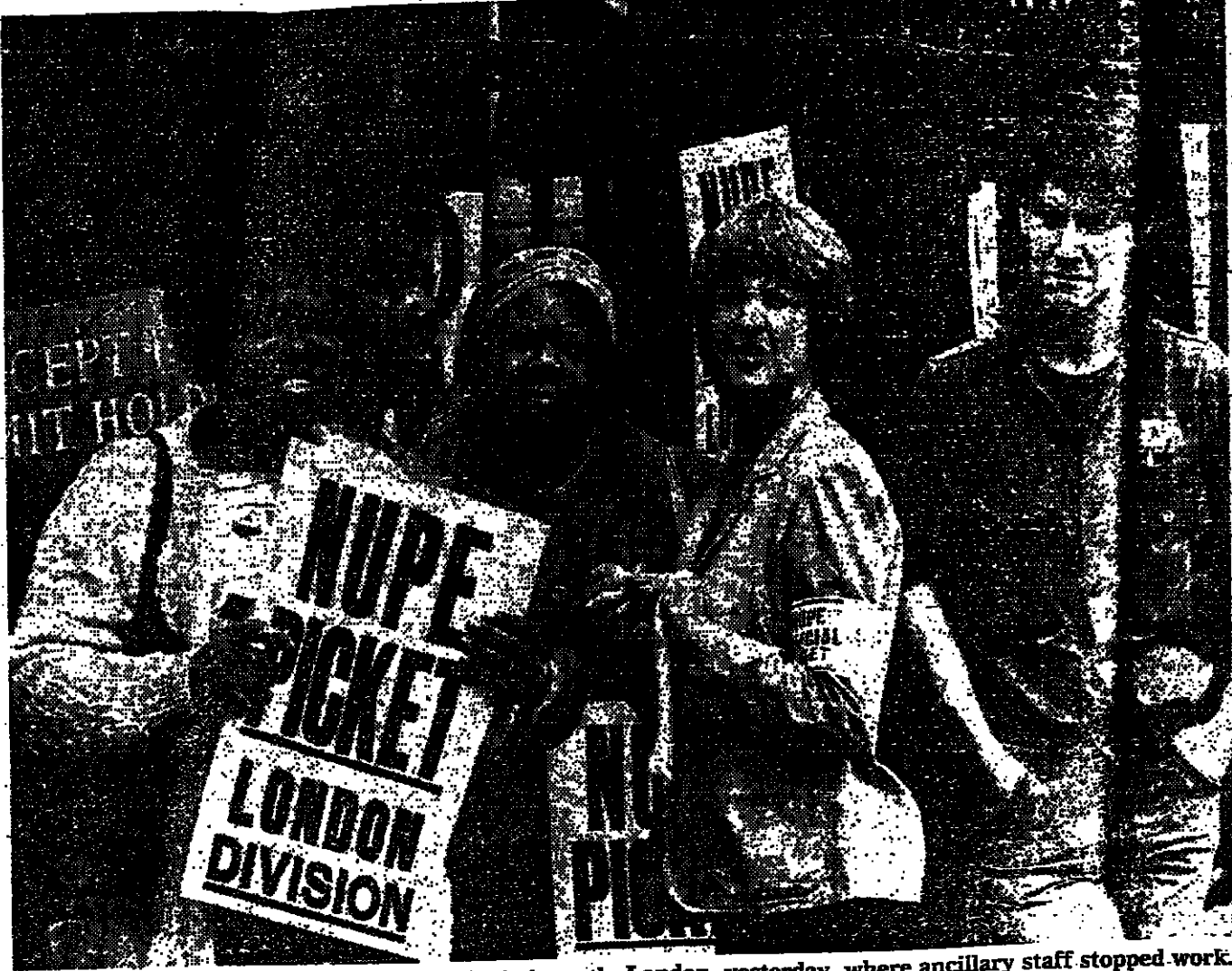
The decision is a blow to Trident, which last year lost control of Yorkshire Television and Tyne Tees Tele-

vision when the Independent Broadcasting Authority re-allocated licences.

In support of his bid for the licence Trident recruited Mr Peter Neivens, formerly a deputy assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard. Giving evidence against Trident, Mrs Valerie Hasted, chairman of the Mayfair Residents Association, asked "Does it not make the job of the police that much harder when one who understands their workings so well may be on the other side of the fence?"

Last Tuesday, the first day of the hearing, Mr Michael Sherrard, representing Trident, told the justices that the company would change the Playboy Club's bawdy girl image, and that they would be more conservatively dressed. But Mrs Hasted said that she had seen no sign of such a change.

On the Stock Market, Trident shares fell by 16 1/2 pence to 68p, and then fell another 4p after hours. Business Editor, p15



Health service pickets outside Dulwich Hospital, south London, yesterday, where ancillary staff stopped work.

Members will elect SDP leader

Continued from page 1

that proposal did not express a second preference on their ballot paper. A majority of those who did clearly favoured MPs having the right to pick the leader after the next election.

The steering committee was also defeated over its proposal for positive discrimination for women in electing a party's "parliament" the Council for Social Democracy.

The committee had proposed that area parties of the SDP comprising more than one constituency should elect at least one woman to the council. That proposal attracted 16,071 votes, but a second, making no reference

to positive discrimination, received 21,377.

It was pointed out, however, by officials that parts of the party's constitution which have already been endorsed envisage positive discrimination in favour of women, notably in the formulation of short lists for parliamentary candidates.

Any short list of three must include at least one woman, and any list of six must include two women.

The SDP announced yesterday that a list of 939 members who wished to stand for election to Parliament had been sent to all area parties covering 19 constituencies had been told to start selection of their

prospective parliamentary candidates. The potential candidates were approved by the steering committee; some 1,100 members had applied for inclusion on the list.

Washington hopes for arms cuts

Washington is hoping that President Reagan's new proposal for nuclear disarmament will persuade Russia to reduce its arsenal of intercontinental ballistic missiles and thus reduce the risk of a first strike by either side.

Page 7

Bad weather sends ships to doom

Continued from page 1

There was no further news from London of the Argentine fleet. Mr McDonald said that "some of them at least are in our sights" — meaning that they were under observation.

But he also disclosed that Argentine ships and aircraft which transgress the new 12-

mile limit imposed by Britain off the Argentine coast last Friday, would not be regarded as hostile unless they threatened the task force. On the other hand, he thought that ships which ventured further than 12 miles from the coast were probably threatening anyway.

It was clearly the safe passage of the task force

ships which was of paramount importance in enforcing the new measure.

Justices resign

President Marcos spoke of the tarnished prestige of the Philippines Supreme Court after accepting the resignation of all 14 justices.

Page 8

Hundreds of hospital workers walk out on strike

By Felicity Jones and Jeanette Mitchell

Disruptive action by health service workers began yesterday with hundreds of hospital porters, cleaners, ward orderlies and catering staff walking out on strike.

Seven hundred hospital workers at the St Francis Hospital, both in south London, stopped work and a thousand members of the National Union of Public Employees staged a one-day strike at the Oldham and District General Hospital and the Oldham Royal Infirmary.

More severe disruption could happen next week when a national stoppage by more than 600,000 health service workers is planned in support of an improved pay award.

In line with the TUC code of conduct, emergency cover will continue to be provided by health workers. The aim of the action is to reduce the health service to an accident and emergency service only in a few weeks.

The national stoppages are the first steps to be taken by the coordinated campaign

and were decided at a meeting of the TUC health services committee yesterday. Ten of the 14 unions represented, including Nupe, the Confederation of Health Service Workers and the National Association of Local Government Officers, are giving their support.

The four other unions, representing doctors, electricians, and maintenance staff, who have been made higher offers and are not included in the Whitley Council negotiations, do not plan to take part.

The present dispute began yesterday with a three-day strike at the two South London hospitals. All non-emergency patients at the Dulwich Hospital were sent home last week. No new patients are being admitted to either hospital.

Pickets are allowing blood, oxygen, drugs, milk and bread into the hospital, but other supplies are being turned away. Catering, portering, and cleaning work is

being carried out by administrative staff.

Nurses at the two hospitals are continuing to nurse patients while supporting the ancillaries' action. Miss Susan Williams, an administrator for the two hospitals, said: "The unions have cooperated very well in providing emergency cover. We know their battle is not against us."

The one-day strike at the two Oldham hospitals in Greater Manchester came after mass meetings. Only emergency cases were being dealt with. Urgent deliveries were being allowed through the picket lines at both hospitals.

Mr Colin Barnett, a Nupe official in the North-west, said: "Within two weeks we expect to be down to an accident and emergency service only throughout Merseyside, Lancashire and Cheshire. Maternity, kidney, and radiotherapy patients will be admitted, but other patients will have to wait."

Frank Johnson in the Commons

20 years, only 20 years of Tam Dalyell

"It is exactly 20 years since I was elected to this House," Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour member for West Lothian, one of Britain's leading manufacturers of points of order, announced yesterday.

Good Lord! It is as short a time as that? It seems so much longer. All those points of order: surely there is more than a mere 20 years' worth there.

But, no, I checked in the reference books and it was true. He has been at it only 20 years. Amazing isn't it?

We all tried to think of an appropriate way of commemorating the occasion. Not that Mr Dalyell would have approved of the usual cheers, singing and presentation of a gold watch while he was still in the House. He is a man of order and a point of order at the time.

Mr Dalyell was demanding an emergency debate on the Falklands crisis as a result of some remarks that the French Foreign Minister had just made on *The World at One*.

Mr Dalyell, like the rest of us, is obsessed with the Falklands. But unlike the rest of us, he is not prepared to wait until the news or wait until the next parliamentary day. He is a man of order and a point of order at the time.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend reception at Guildhall, to mark 150th anniversary of Cottage Homes, 6.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh addresses Council for Environmental Conservation, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1, 10. as Patron, Outward Bound Trust, attends lunch organised by Variety Club, Hilton Hotel, 22 Park Lane, W1, 12.15, and later, as Patron and Trustee, attends reception at Buckingham Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard

In The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 2.30.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, attends Duchess of Gloucester Institute presentation of awards, Royal Festival Hall, London, 1.15.

The Duke of Gloucester, President, Royal Agricultural Society of England, attends Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, 10.45, and later attends Royal Haulage Association Annual Dinner, Grosvenor House Hotel, London, 7.10.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, attends Annual Ball, Intercontinental Hotel, London, 8.10.

New exhibitions

Paintings by Alexis Taylor, Museum and Art Gallery, The Green, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, 10.45, and later, as Patron, Outward Bound Trust, attends lunch organised by Variety Club, Hilton Hotel, 22 Park Lane, W1, 12.15, and later, as Patron and Trustee, attends reception at Buckingham Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending May 2:

1 Hart to Hart (16.45m)

2 ITN News (20.45, Sun) (16.10m)

3 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada (15.60m)

4 Family Fortunes, Central (14.65m)

5 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada (14.60m)

6 The Duchess of Devonshire (14.05m)

7 We'll Meet Again, LWT (13.40m)

8 The Val Doonican Music Show (12.25m)

9 A Kind of Loving, Granada (13.35m)

10 The Bouncer, Yorkshire (13.20m)

Roads

London and South-east: A41: Reduced width southbound in Hendon Way, Hendon and Finchley Road, Swiss Cottage, A339: Single lane only, Newbury Road, Kingsclere, Hampshire, A105: Northbound diversion at Silver Street, Enfield.

Midlands: Long delays likely this morning from Northampton, A505 to Baldock, A1, A47 to Leicester: abnormally large loads being transported. A6: Temporary signals at Fairfield Common, Buxton and at Darley Dale, Derbyshire, A456: Only one lane at Newburn Bridge, Herefordshire, A5: Temporary signals on Gailey to Telford road near Stretton Viaduct, Staffordshire.

North: A69: Lanes closed on Scotswood Bridge, Newcastle. A1: Roadworks at Smeafield and Wandy Lane, Northumberland. A6072: Delays likely on Heigley Road, Northumberland. Wales and West: A4/A37: Temporary one-way system, Bath Road/Wells Road, Bristol. A232 to S of junction, A38: Restrictions on Broad Quay and St Augustine's Quay Parade, Bristol. A35: Roadworks at Charnmouth, Dorset.

Scotland: M88: Only one lane open southbound from Old Ongleson to River Carron, M90: Lane closures N of junction, A92 to S of junction, A90. A7: Single lane with temporary signals at Falahill railway bridge, N of Stow, Midlothian.

Weather forecast

Pressure high in E and low in SW of the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, NW, Central N, England, Midlands, N, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Sunny periods, light SE breeze, max temp 13C (55F), cooler on coasts.

E, England, NE, England: Sunny periods, light SE breeze, max temp 13C (55F), cooler on coasts.

Channel Islands, SW, England, S, Wales: Cloudy, sunny intervals, mostly dry, wind SE, moderate to fresh, max temp 14C (57F).

Bornsea, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Rather cloudy, sunny intervals, wind E, light, max temp 13C (55F), cooler on coasts.

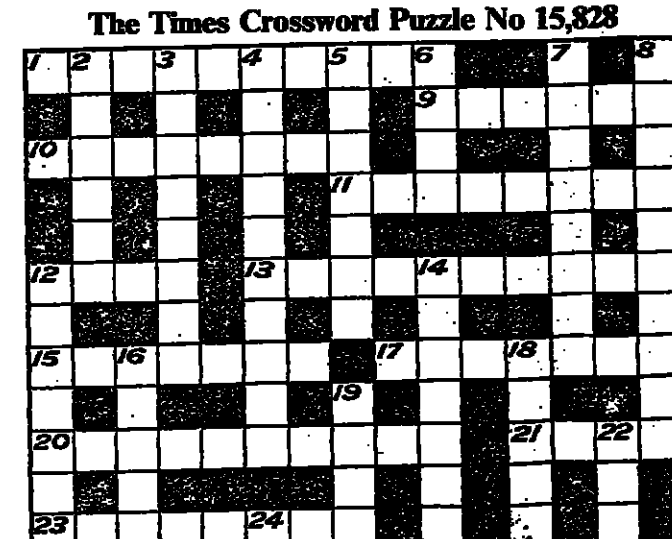
SW, NE, NW, Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Sunny periods, wind SE, light to moderate, max temp 14C to 16C (57 to 61F).



High tides			
Location	AM	PM	PM
London Bridge	12.25	2.15	5.15
Southampton	12.25	2.15	5.15
Bristol	12.25	2.15	5.15
Cardiff	12.25	2.15	5.15
Swansea	12.25	2.15	5.15
Exeter	12.25	2.15	5.15
Plymouth	12.25	2.15	5.15
London	12.25	2.15	5.15
Southampton	12.25	2.15	5.15
Bristol	12.25	2.15	5.15
Cardiff	12.25	2.15	5.15
Swansea	12.25	2.15	5.15
Exeter	12.25	2.15	5.15
Plymouth	12.25	2.15	5.15

Around Britain			
Location	Wind	Temp	Cloud
London	SE	13	1-2
Southampton	SE	13	1-2
Bristol	SE	13	1-2
Cardiff	SE	13	1-2
Swansea	SE	13	1-2
Exeter	SE	13	1-2
Plymouth	SE	13	1-2
London	SE	13	1-2
Southampton	SE	13	1-2
Bristol	SE	13	1-2
Cardiff	SE	13	1-2
Swansea	SE	13	1-2
Exeter	SE	13	1-2
Plymouth	SE	13	1-2

Highest and lowest			
Location	High	Low	Time
London	10.1	5.1	10.1
Southampton	10.1	5.1	10.1
Bristol	10.1	5.1	10.1
Cardiff	10.1	5.1	10.1
Swansea	10.1	5.1	10.1
Exeter	10.1	5.1	10.1
Plymouth	10.1	5.1	10.1
London	10.1	5.1	10.1
Southampton	10.1	5.1	10.1
Bristol	10.1	5.1	10.1
Cardiff	10.1	5.1	10.1
Swansea	10.1	5.1	10.1
Exeter	10.1	5.1	10.1
Plymouth	10.1	5.1	10.1



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,828

ACROSS

1 Weaver's kit first used by driver (6,4)

9 Waylay a double-decker in Newham (6)

10 Sound made by forming fairs (4,4)

11 Oral application useful to a chap (8)

12 Bond formed by dancing, say (4)

13 Site a storm damaged — they assess the cost (10)

15 Shelley's nemesis — a final alternative (7)

17 Apple-picker suffers a loss in Georgian city (7)

20 Go out with aunt to the river (5,5)

21 What might spoil the wine, see, in Ireland? (4)

23 Paradoxical figure has little time, within a year, in Oxfordshire (8)

25 They move to follow up a section of the Act (8)

27 The rest sport of kings (6)

28 S African lepidoptera found victory with wings here (10)

DOWN

2 Early title to demonstrate our system (6)

3 Tension builds up to the French in race on the loch (8)

4 Disposed of by Act of Union? (7,3)

5 Rival bird, a variety of teal? (7)

General

School May Fair, Windsor Hall, Blackham, 2.30 to 10, (today and tomorrow).

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Criminal Justice Bill, progress on remaining stages.

Lords (2.30): Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill, committee, second day. Social Security and Housing Bill, committee, third day.

Anniversaries

Otto Mergenthaler, inventor of Linotype machine, was born at Hachtel, Germany, 1854. Deaths: Matteo Ricci, Jesuit missionary in China, died there, 1610. William Pitt, the Elder, 1st Earl of Chatham, Hayes, Kent, 1778. Sir John Herschel, astronomer, Haverhill, Kent, 1871. Prime Minister Spencer Perceval was assassinated in the House of Commons by John Bellingham, 1812. The Indian Mutiny began with a rising of native troops at Meerut, 1857.

Anthem competition

The Midland Philharmonic Orchestra is running a national competition for children up to 18 to compose a short anthem (piano score only) to celebrate the birth of the royal baby. Cash prizes will go to the three best entries, and the MPO will commission orchestration. The winner will be invited to conduct his or her work at a public concert shortly after the birth.

Details from MPO Children's Competition, Ridgway House, Great Brington, Northampton, NN7 4JA. (Closing date: June 1).

Sportline

Sportline, a general sports 24-hour recorded information service, is now available, giving current news of sporting events involving British players at home and abroad. From London, call 01-246 8020, Birmingham 021-611 1212, Bristol 0272-8020, Edinburgh 031-246 8061, Glasgow 041-246 8022, Liverpool 051-246 8020, Manchester 061-246 8020.

The pound

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.50	1.50
Belgium Fr	36.00	36.00
Canada \$	2.20	2.20
Denmark Kr	14.77	14.77
France Fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	1.36	1.36
Greece Dr	116.00	116.00
Hong Kong \$	10.95	10.95
Italy Lir	2336.00	2336.00
Japan Yen	160.00	160.00
Netherlands Gld	4.85	4.85
Norway Kr	11.30	11.30
Portugal Esc	120.00	120.00
Spain Ptas	200.00	200.00
Sweden Kr	4.66	4.66
Switzerland Fr	3.53	3.53
USA \$	1.49	1.49
Yugoslavia Dnr	93.00	93.00

London: the FT Index closed up 7.2 at 390.5.

Lighting-up time

London 9.06 pm to 4.44 am

Bristol 9.18 pm to 4.54 am

Cardiff 9.28 pm to 5.04 am

Manchester 9.28 pm to 5.11 am

Sheffield 9.28 pm to 5.11 am

Southampton 9.28 pm to 5.11 am

Wolverhampton 9.28 pm to 5.11 am

York 9.28 pm to 5.11 am

Christian Aid Week

This week is Christian Aid Week. The week's theme is education, trade training, health, agriculture and relief, aid is channelled mostly through churches overseas, but distributed regardless of faith. Keep an eye open for collectors. Keep send donations to Christian Aid, PO Box 1, London SW9 8BH.

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